KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING™

YUICHI KUMAKURA

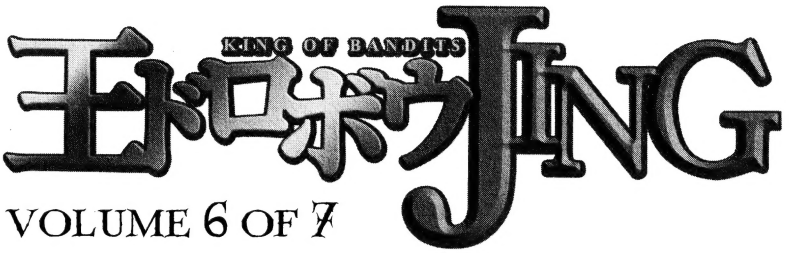
TOKYOPOP

王ドロボウ JING 新装版 SIX

here's looking at you babe.

Is this boy explosive?

jing & kir in SD style



VOLUME 6 OF 7

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Once upon a midnight dreary, a thief named Jing was weak and weary.
Many strange and forgotten lands he did traverse and explore.
His companion was a bird named Kir, his black wings a-flapping.
While Jing nodded, nearly napping, Kir saw booty galore.
"Wake up, Jing," Kir muttered, "all around us is loot galore."
Treasure from ceiling to floor!

Thus, this ebony bird's wiling, sent Jing's sad face into smiling,
For Jing could steal the stars from the sky, thievery he truly did adore.
The albatross sat proudly on Jing's placid bust, his beady eyes did implore,
One more thing Kir did utter, his feathers all a greedy flutter, his voice a roar,
Quoth the albatross, "Let's steal some more!"

JING: KING OF BANDITS
SIX
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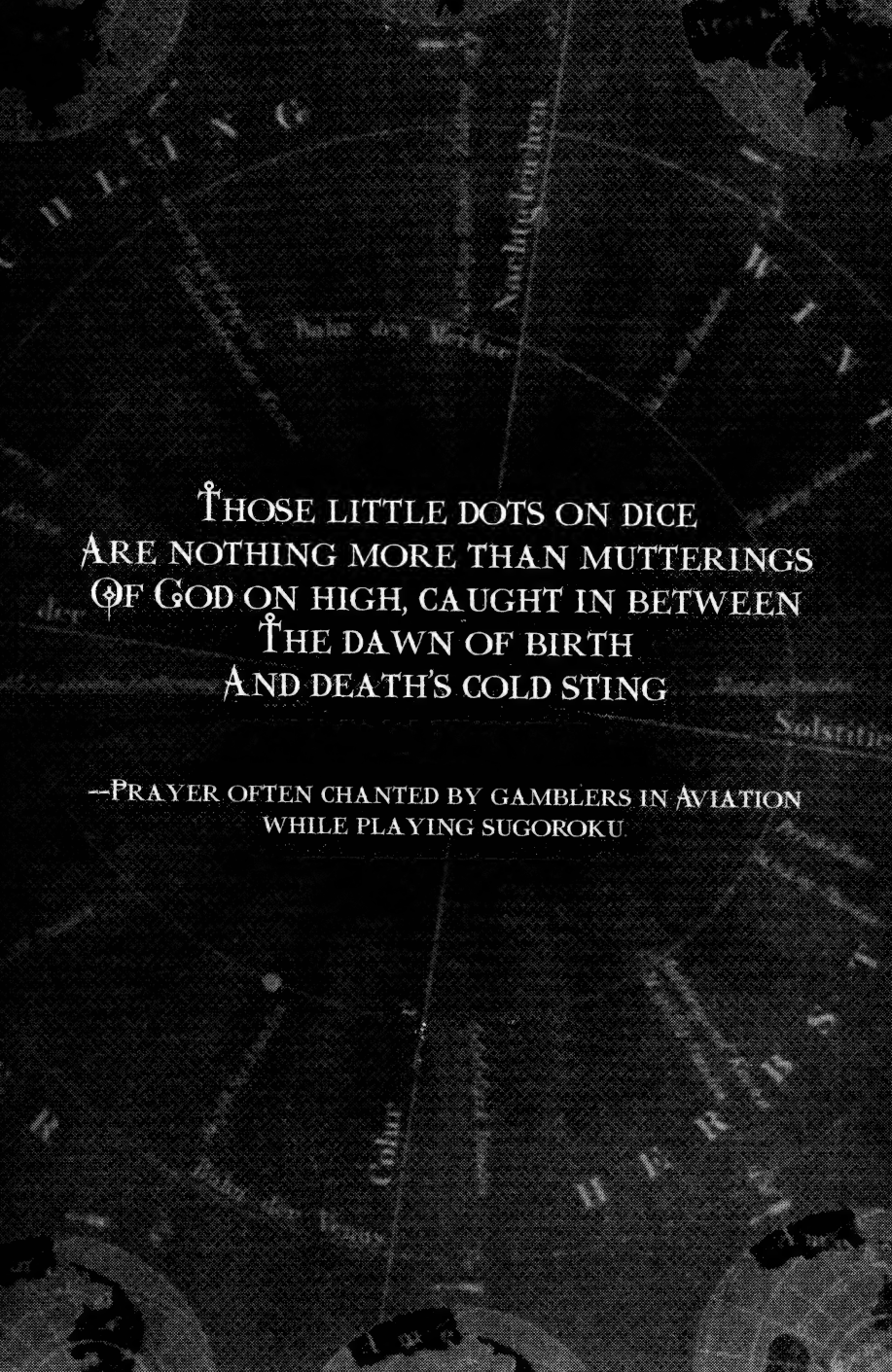
PIPS...
AND CHIPS...



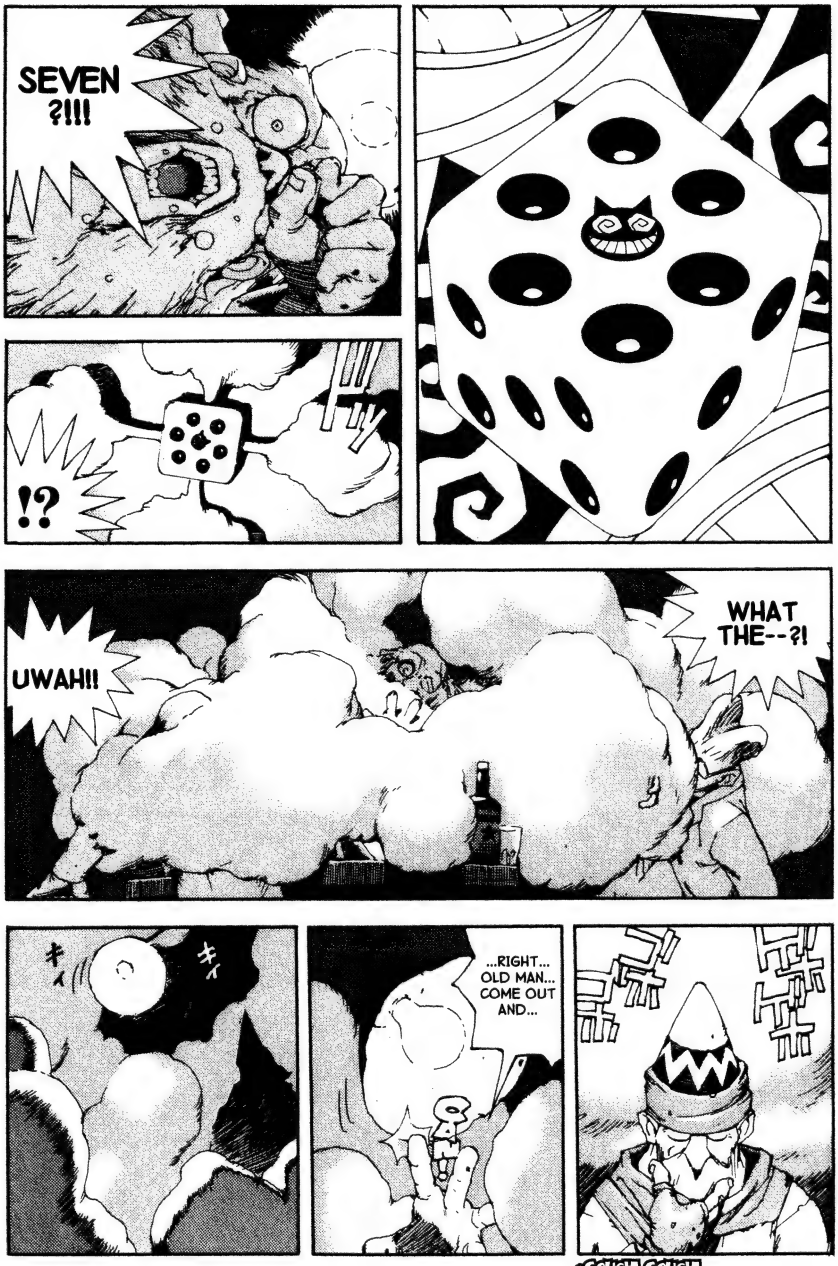
THOSE LITTLE DOTS ON DICE
ARE NOTHING MORE THAN MUTTERINGS
OF GOD ON HIGH, CAUGHT IN BETWEEN
THE DAWN OF BIRTH
AND DEATH'S COLD STING

--PRAYER OFTEN CHANTED BY GAMBLERS IN AVIATION
WHILE PLAYING SUGOROKU

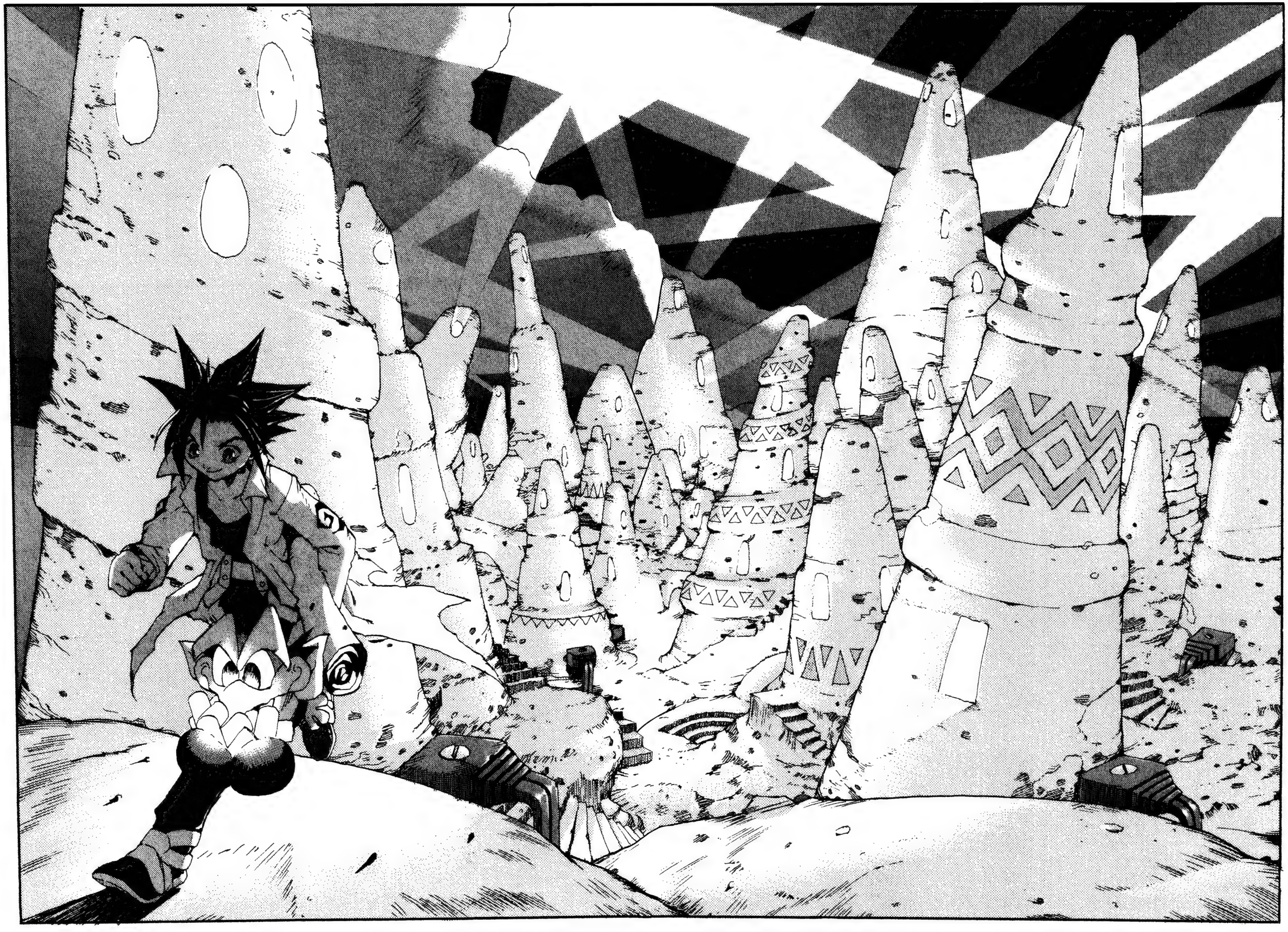
WELL, WELL...SEEMS I'M THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.

SO...BEST TO QUIT WHILE AHEAD, EH? OF COURSE, I'LL BE TAKING ME EARNINGS WITH ME...
JUST ONE GOL-DURNED MINUTE--THIS HERE'S A FAKE!!
TO ROLL A SIX EVERY TIME--EVEN WITH A USED DIE--THAT AIN'T LUCK!!
WELL?! ARE WE GONNA JUST LIE DOWN AND LET THIS OLD COOT SWINDLE US OUTTA OUR HARD-EARNED GOLD BATTERIES?! C'MON--THE FOUR OF US COULD TAKE 'IM!

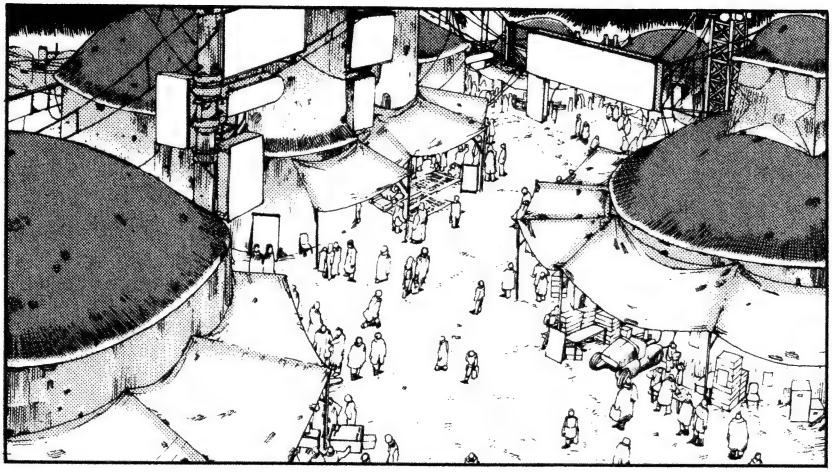
NOW...ANYONE ELSE WANT A PIECE OF ME?
THAT'S RIGHT... SLEEP IT OFF.
DUHHH
BUT IT'S A SHAME THEY WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE! EVEN IF YOU ROLL A SIX, IT STILL WON'T BE ENOUGH!!
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, OLD MAN...YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
AHHH, VICTORY. I HEREBY PLEDGE THE GOLD BATTERIES I WIN TONIGHT WILL GO DIRECTLY TO MY RETIREMENT FUND...

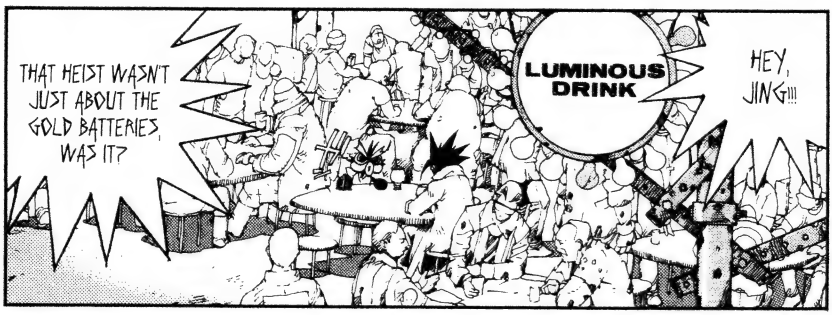

SEVEN ?!!!
!?
UWAH!!
WHAT THE--?!
キィ
キィ
...RIGHT... OLD MAN... COME OUT AND...
GAH
«COUGH COUGH

PSST, JING-- HURRY UP!!
THE LIGHTS... WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS? ANYONE...?



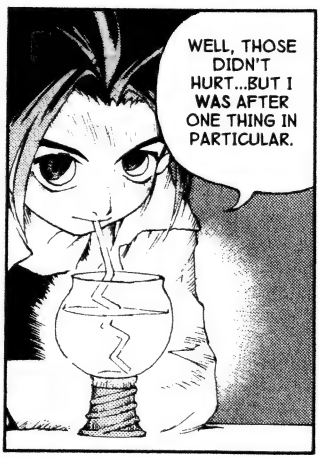
"BETTING THESE WHISKERS ON BUDDHA," HUH? JUDGING FROM HIS CONDITION...
...THOSE WHISKERS MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN FUR TRIMMINGS IN THE TRASH.
...IN CAT SIZES ANYMORE, DO THEY?
SSSH
AND THE CHOICE OF HELMET WAS A BIT MUCH...THEY JUST DON'T MAKE THEM...



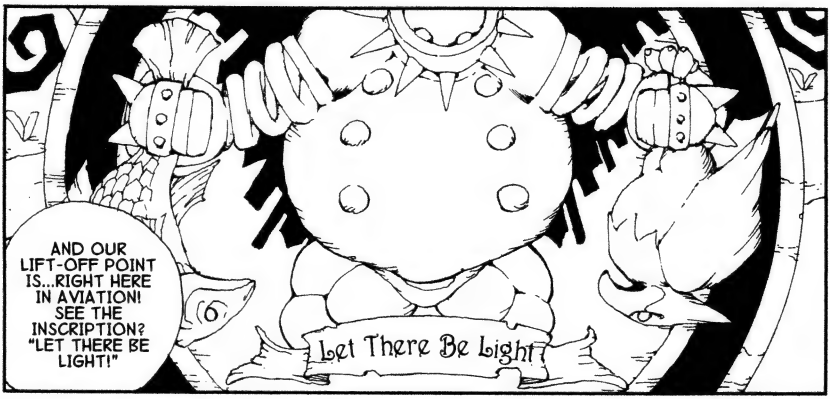

THAT HEIST WASN'T JUST ABOUT THE GOLD BATTERIES, WAS IT?
LUMINOUS DRINK
HEY, JING!!!

WELL, HOLD ON...
SURE, IT'S SLIGHTLY DIRTY... WELL, MORE THAN SLIGHTLY... BUT THAT IS THE STATUS QUO...

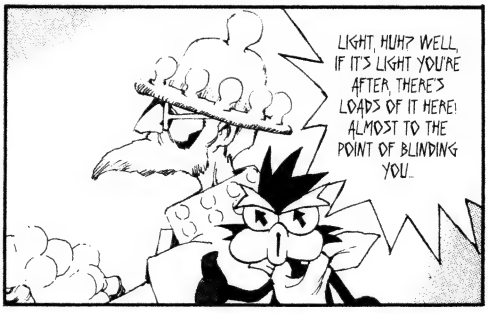
AND THIS PARTICULAR THING... WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE THAT FILTHY OLD SUGOROKU BOARD, EH?
Hi-yah!!
ZZHHP!

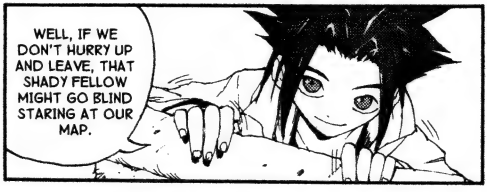

WELL, THOSE DIDN'T HURT...BUT I WAS AFTER ONE THING IN PARTICULAR.

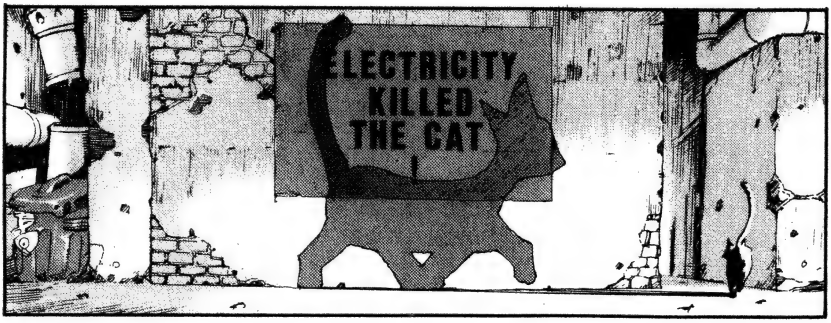
M-M-MAP, YOU SAY?! WHERE TO?
THE VERY EDGE OF MORTALITY, OF COURSE...TO FUZZY NAVEL!!
...FOR A GENUINE MAP!!
SEE THIS? IT'S AT THE END OF THE FUZZY NAVEL SKY... JUST BEYOND THE HORIZON... OH, AND IT'S THE REPUTED RESIDENCE OF GOD HIMSELF.
JUST LIKE THAT OLD SAYING... BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH... HEAVEN AND EARTH!

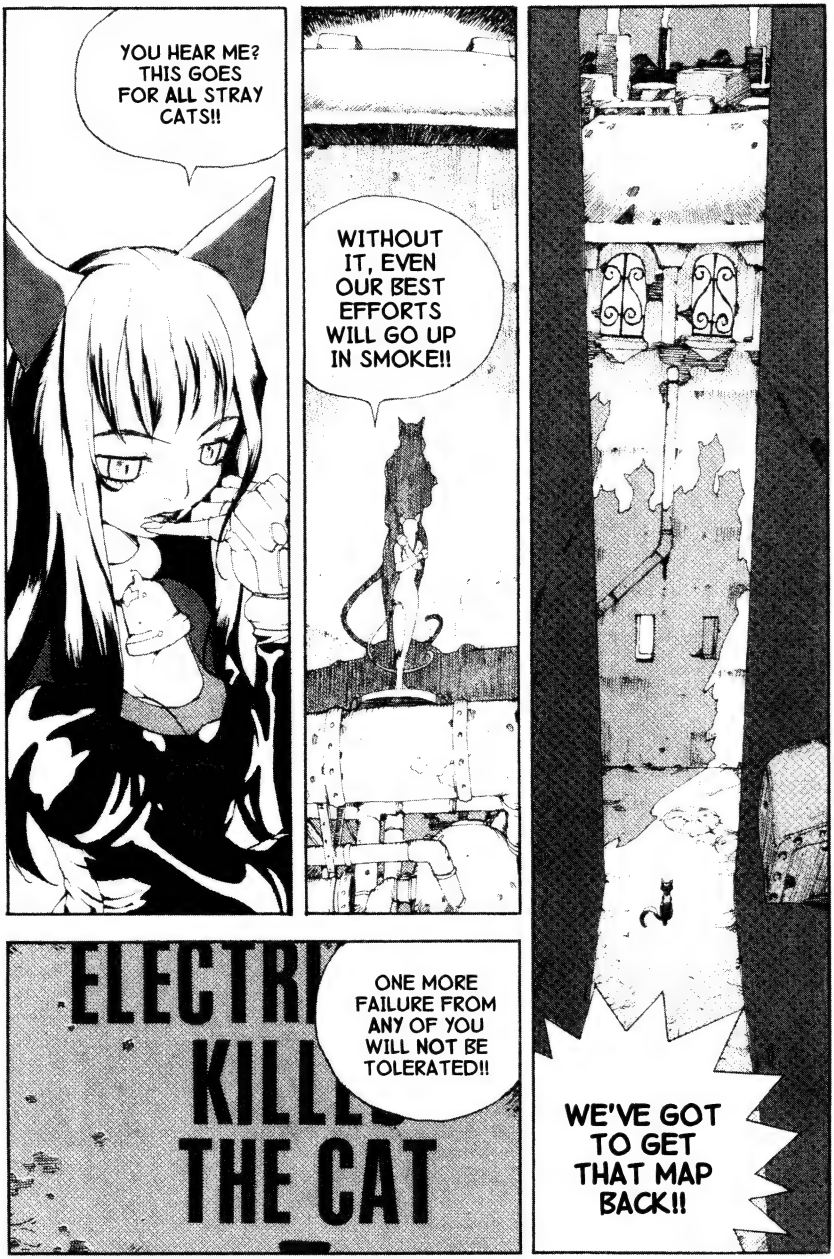

AND OUR LIFT-OFF POINT IS...RIGHT HERE IN AVIATION! SEE THE INSCRIPTION? "LET THERE BE LIGHT!"
Let There Be Light!

HEY, WE'RE BURGLARS TOO, Y'KNOW...
WHAT?! IF IT'S SO VALUABLE, WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT AWAY?! THIS PLACE COULD BE CRAWLING WITH CAT BURGLARS!


LIGHT, HUH? WELL, IF IT'S LIGHT YOU'RE AFTER, THERE'S LOADS OF IT HERE! ALMOST TO THE POINT OF BLINDING YOU...


WELL, IF WE DON'T HURRY UP AND LEAVE, THAT SHADY FELLOW MIGHT GO BLIND STARING AT OUR MAP.


ELECTRICITY KILLED THE CAT


YOU HEAR ME? THIS GOES FOR ALL STRAY CATS!!
WITHOUT IT, EVEN OUR BEST EFFORTS WILL GO UP IN SMOKE!!
ELECTRI
KILLE
THE CAT
ONE MORE FAILURE FROM ANY OF YOU WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!
WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT MAP BACK!!

ELECTRICITY KILLED THE CAT !
REMEMBER OUR SACRED MISSION: TO SERVE GOD, NOT GOVERNMENT...AND TO DISTRIBUTE THE ELECTRICITY THE POWERS THAT BE HAVE DENIED THE MASSES!
HUKK!
NEVER SAY, "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL." ON THE CONTRARY...GOD COMMANDS IT!
AND SINCE WE HAVE MADE OUR GOD ALL TOO AWARE OF THIS SENTIMENT, SHOULD IT BE ANY SURPRISE THAT WE NOW FIND THE PATH TO HIS HEAD TEMPLE, FUZZY NAVEL, SUDDENLY OPEN TO US?!
OUR LONGEST-CHERISHED DREAM--TO STEAL ELECTRICITY FROM FUZZY NAVEL--IS NOW WITHIN OUR REACH...
!?
...AND WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RISK BETRAYING GOD'S CONFIDENCE BY LETTING THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH OUR CLAWS!

AMEN!!!!!!

OF COURSE... THE TEMPLE...

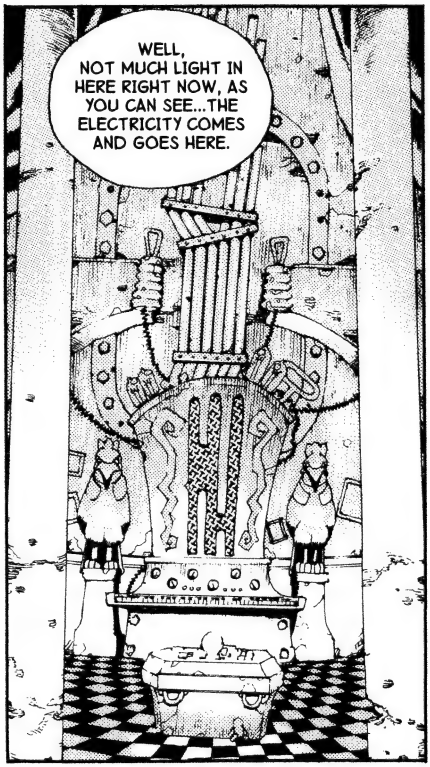
A TEMPLE... ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN!! I SAW HIM...HOLDING THE MAP...AS PLAIN AS DAY!

WHERE? WHERE IS IT?!

I'VE FOUND HIM! THE ONE WHO HOLDS OUR MAP!

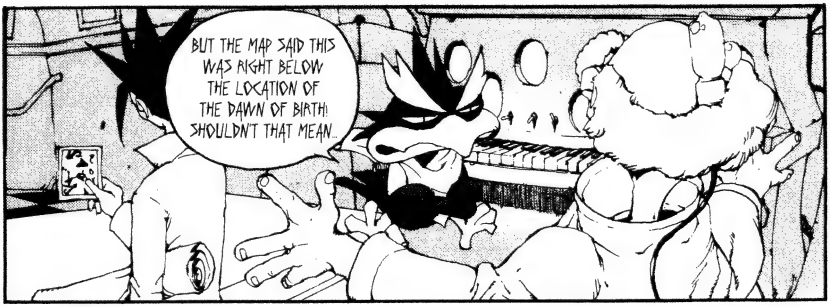
SISTER!!

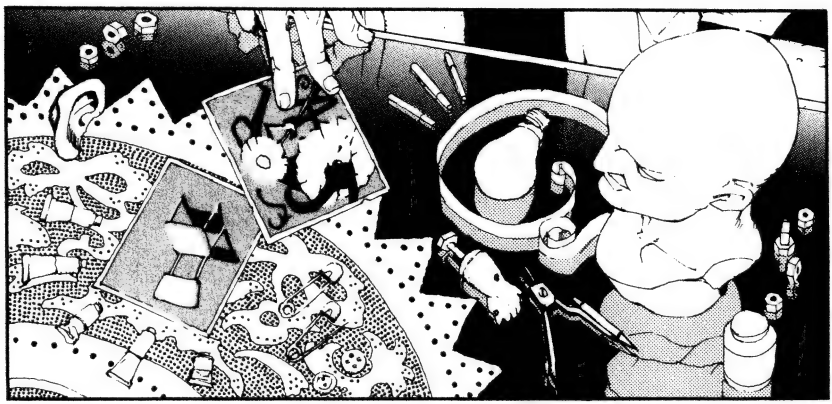
SISTER KIRSCHE!!

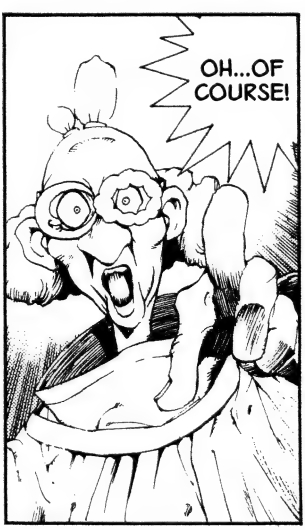

WELL, NOT MUCH LIGHT IN HERE RIGHT NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE...THE ELECTRICITY COMES AND GOES HERE.

...“LET THERE BE LIGHT,” AS THE SAYING GOES.

IN FACT, I'D HAZARD TO CALL THIS JOINT THE WORST LIGHT IN TOWN!


BUT THE MAP SAID THIS WAS RIGHT BELOW THE LOCATION OF THE DAWN OF BIRTH! SHOULDN'T THAT MEAN...

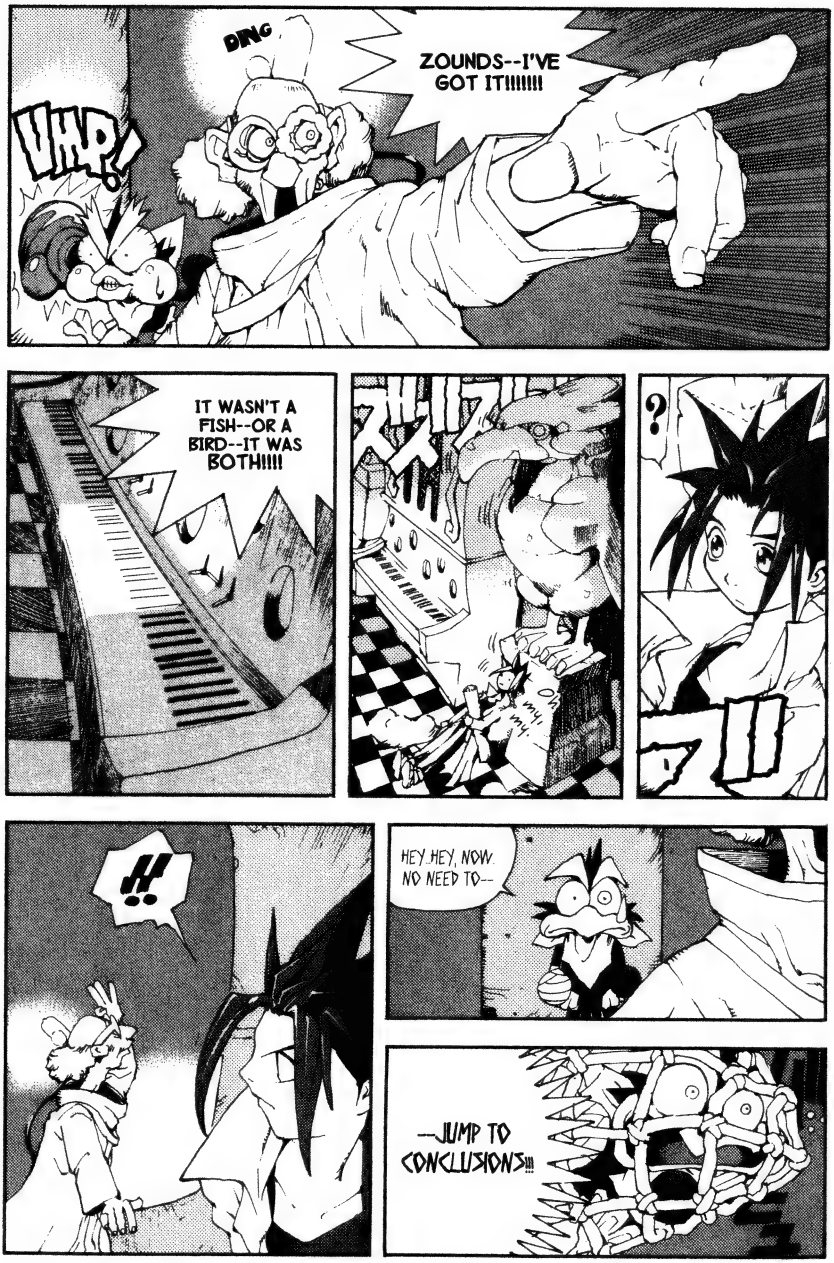



OH...OF COURSE!

WHY YOU--!! IF YOU DON'T START TAKING US SERIOUSLY, I'LL ISSUE YOU A DIVINE PUNISHMENT, SO HELP ME--!!!

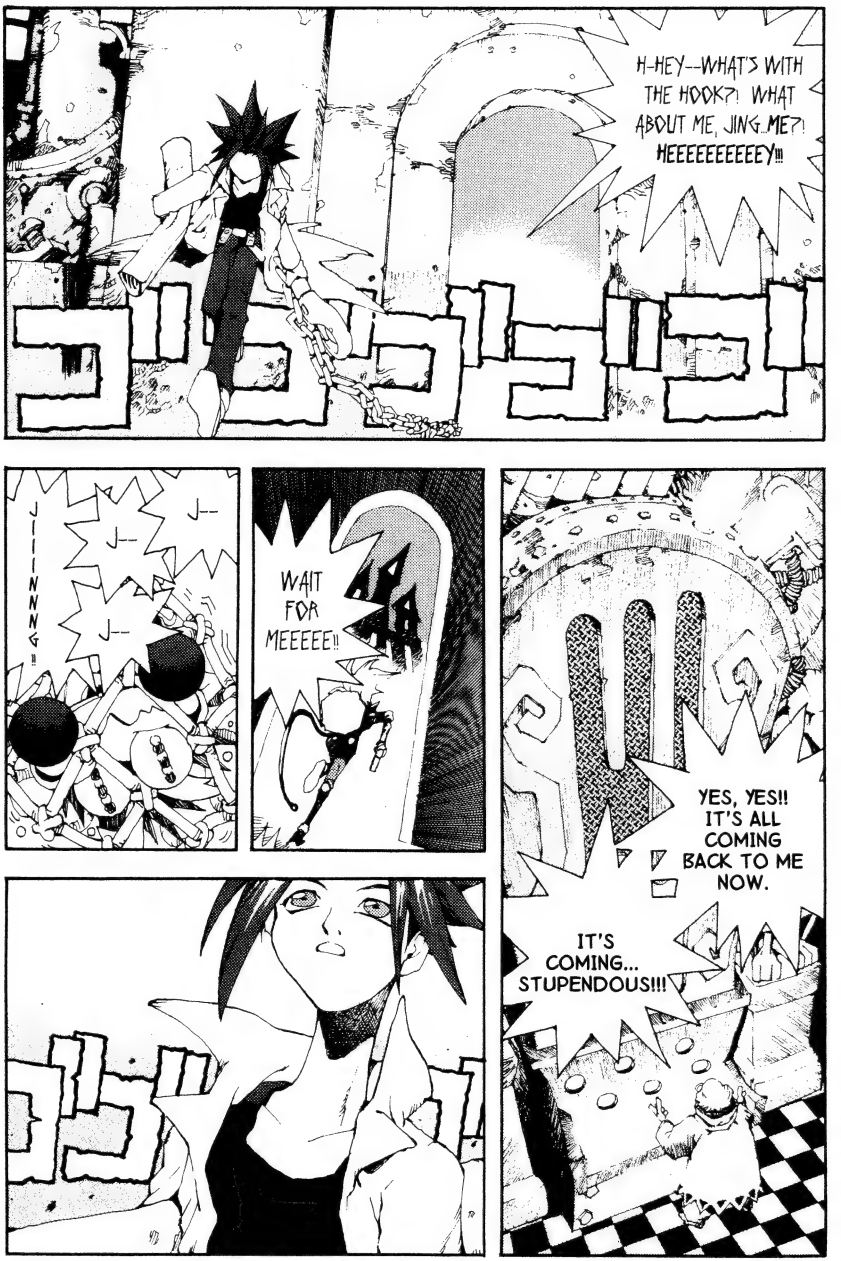
WELL, OF COURSE, IN THE MORNING WE GET SO MUCH LIGHT WE CAN BARELY STAND IT... HAHAHAHA! EAST-FACING WINDOWS, YOU KNOW.

FLASH
I SAW IT! A FLYING FISH!!
OF COURSE
WHAT?! WHAT?!!
FORGIVE ME
ウンウン
THE SCRIPTURES FORETOLD IT, DID THEY NOT? UNDER GOD, THE SKY WILL BE AS ONE WITH THE OCEAN, AND THE OCEAN WILL BE AS ONE WITH THE SKY...
HANG ON, JING! I GOTTA INSTILL THE FEAR OF GOD INTO THIS GUY... THIS WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.
KIR!! COME HERE.

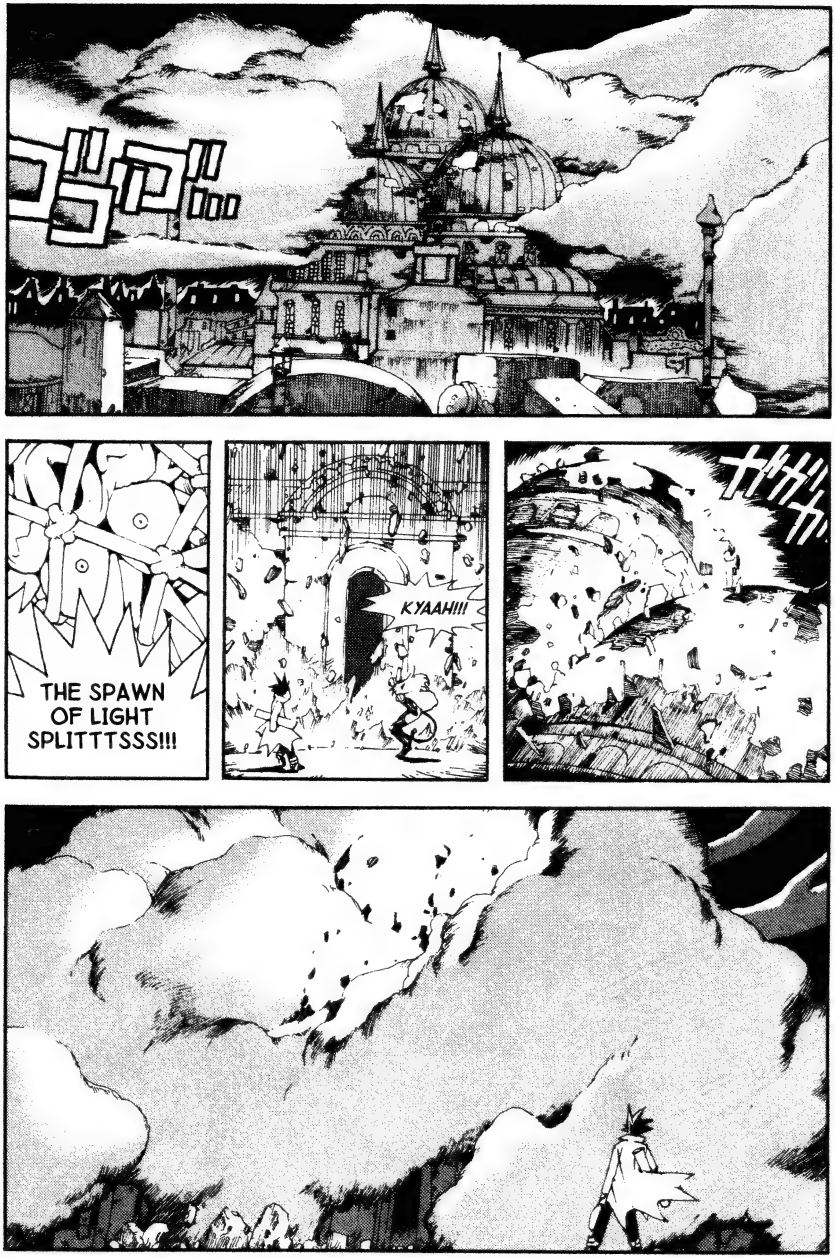

DING
ZOUNDS--I'VE GOT IT!!!!!!!
VMP!
IT WASN'T A FISH--OR A BIRD--IT WAS BOTH!!!!
?
!!
HEY..HEY, NOW NO NEED TO--
--JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!!!

RIGHT, THEN. I'LL BE TAKING THAT MAP, IF YOU PLEASE. UNLESS...
...YOUR COMRADE WOULD PREFER TO RETURN TO GOD NOW.
HEY, BABE. FOR YOU, I'LL MEET MY MAKER ANYTIME!!!
LOVE
LOVE
GAME'S OVER, SON...YOU DECIDE HOW IT ENDS!!

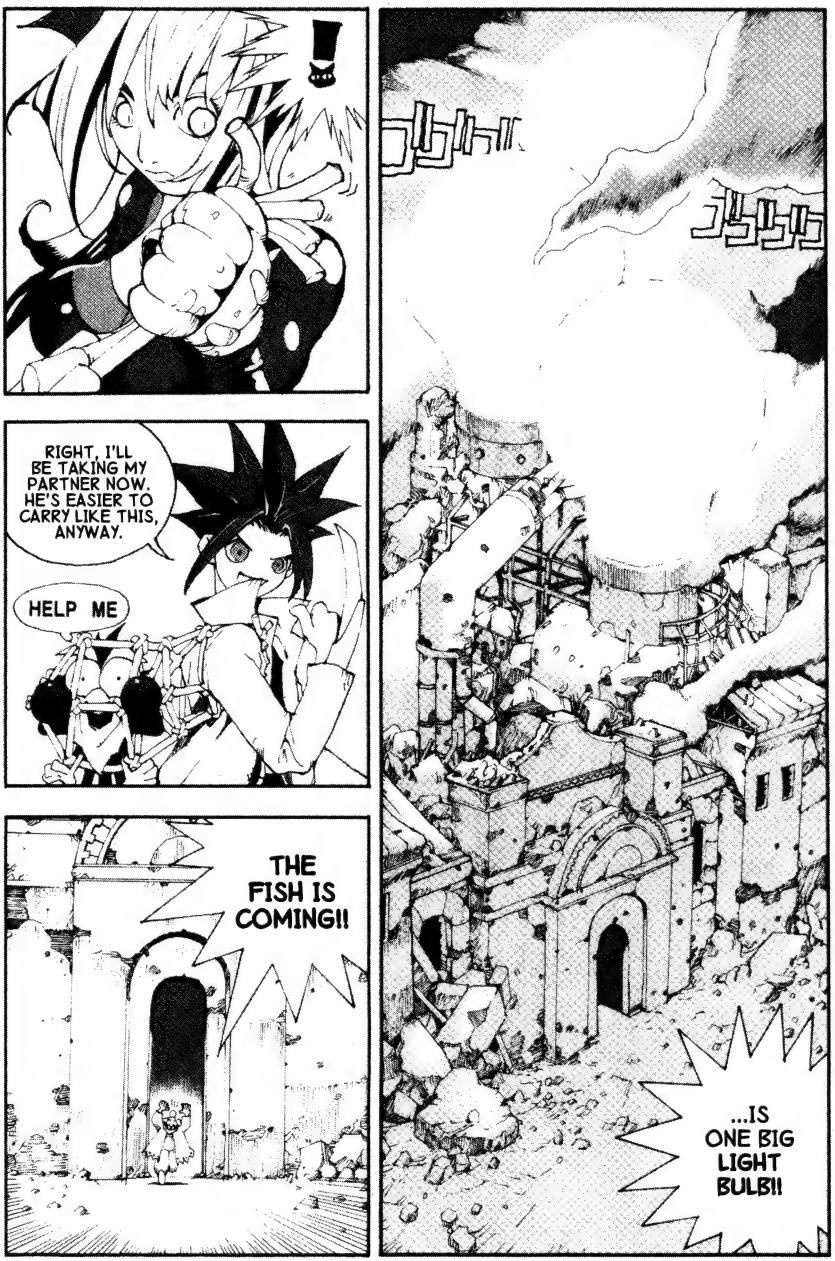
THERE WAS A FISH!
FLASH!
F-F-FISH!!!!
PERFECT
CLICK
COULD THIS BE IT?! ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...
ゴゴゴゴゴ
J-J-J-JING— WHERE'RE YOU GOING?! YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME BEHIND, ARE YA?!

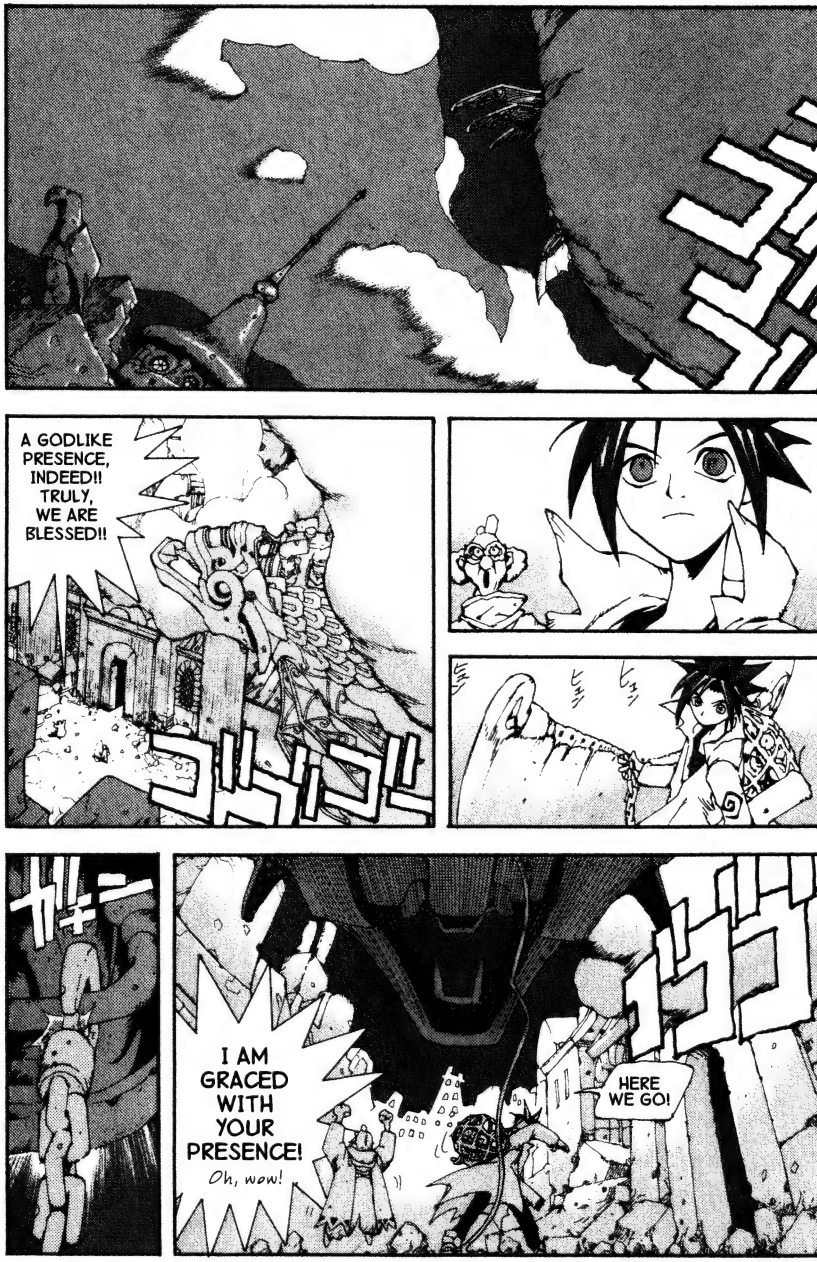

H-HEY--WHAT'S WITH THE HOOK?! WHAT ABOUT ME, JING_ME?! HEEEEEEEEEEY!!!
J--
J--
J--
JIIINNG!!
WAIT FOR MEEEEE!!
YES, YES!! IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW.
IT'S COMING... STUPENDOUS!!!

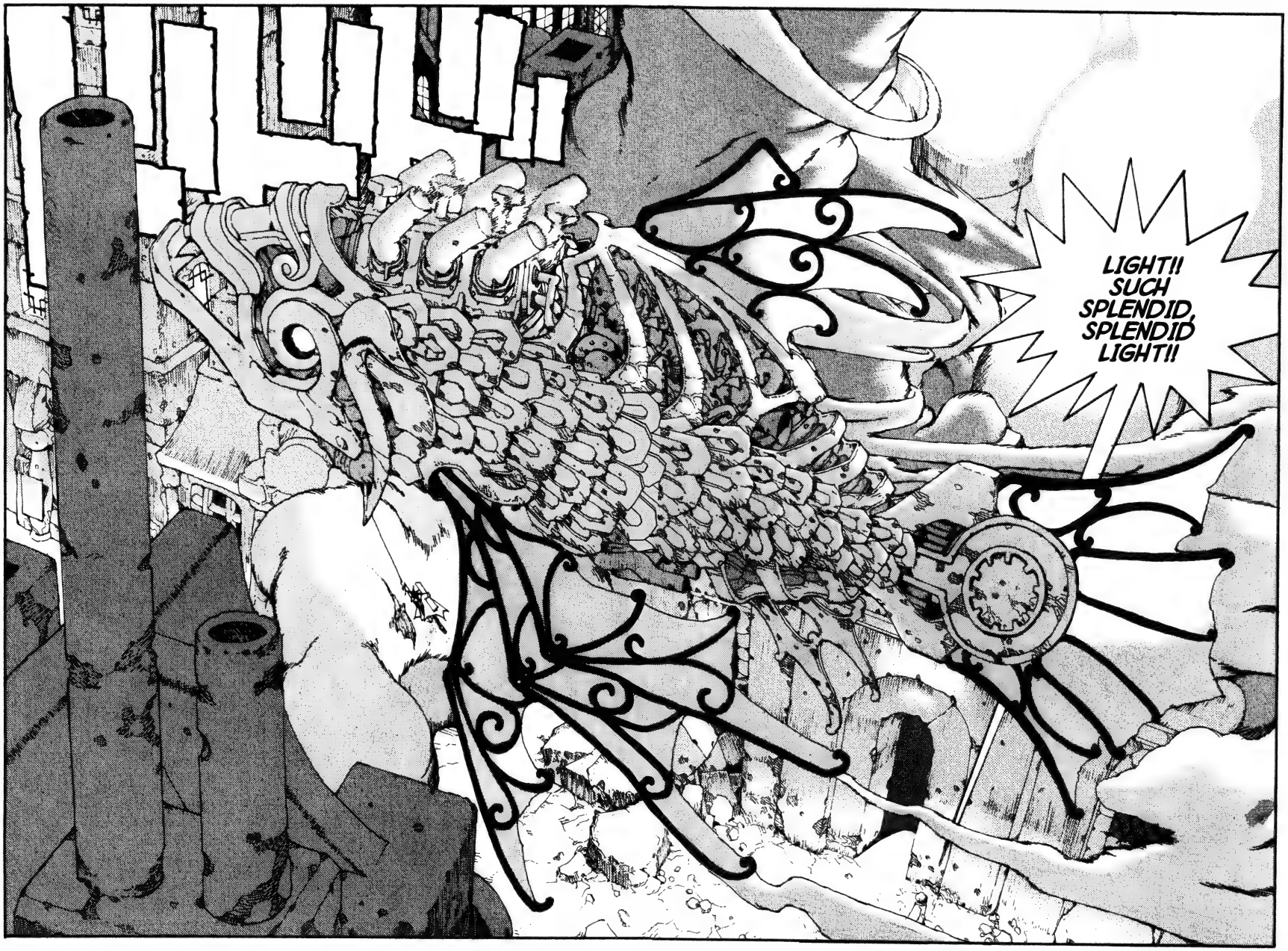
C-C'MON, JING...YOU'RE NOT TAKING THAT PRIEST'S NONSENSE SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU?
YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME...YOU'RE GONNA GO FISHING WITH THAT?!
I WILL HAVE THAT MAP...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
THAT'S IT...RIGHT HERE...LET THERE... BE LIGHT! AND... YES...THERE IS LIGHT HERE, INDEED!!


ゴゴゴ...
THE SPAWN OF LIGHT SPLITTTSSS!!!
KYAAH!!!
ガガガ

YES! IT'S COMING NOW...THE FISH IS COMING!! GUIDED BY...SEEKING...THE LIGHT...!
OH. SO THERE WAS A LIGHT SOURCE IN HERE...
ドオオ
THE BEST KIND, KIR.
YOU SEE, THIS ENTIRE TEMPLE...

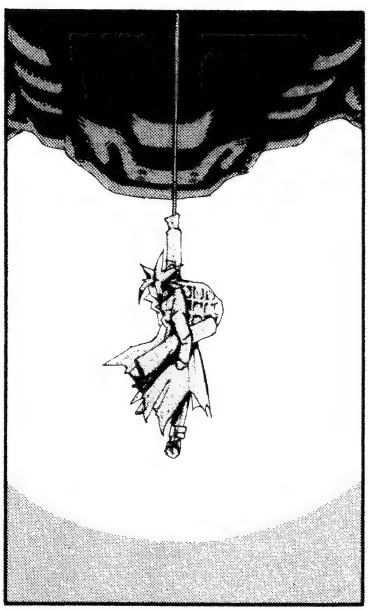

!
RIGHT, I'LL BE TAKING MY PARTNER NOW. HE'S EASIER TO CARRY LIKE THIS, ANYWAY.
HELP ME
THE FISH IS COMING!!
...IS ONE BIG LIGHT BULB!!

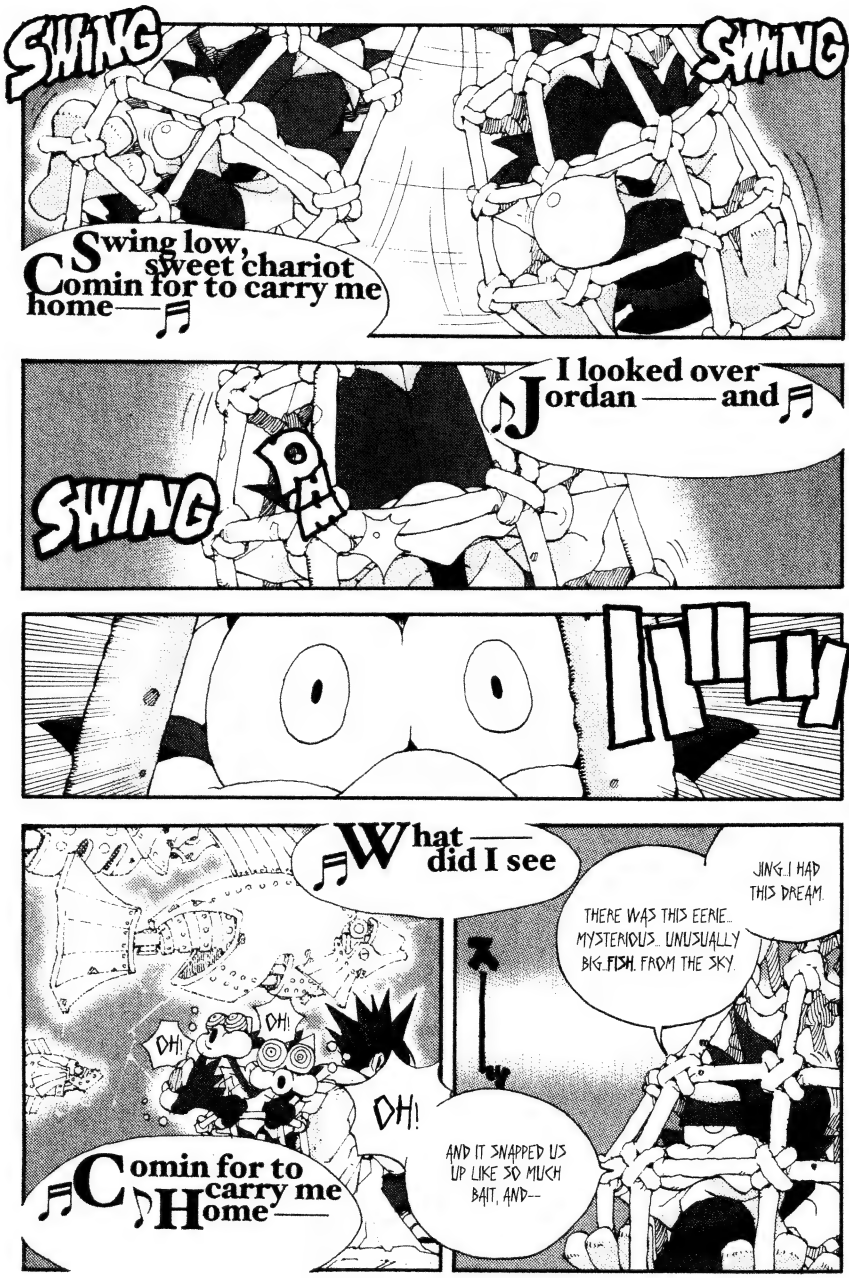

A GODLIKE PRESENCE, INDEED!! TRULY, WE ARE BLESSED!!
I AM GRACED WITH YOUR PRESENCE!
Oh, wow!
HERE WE GO!


LIGHT!!
SUCH
SPLENDID,
SPLENDID
LIGHT!!

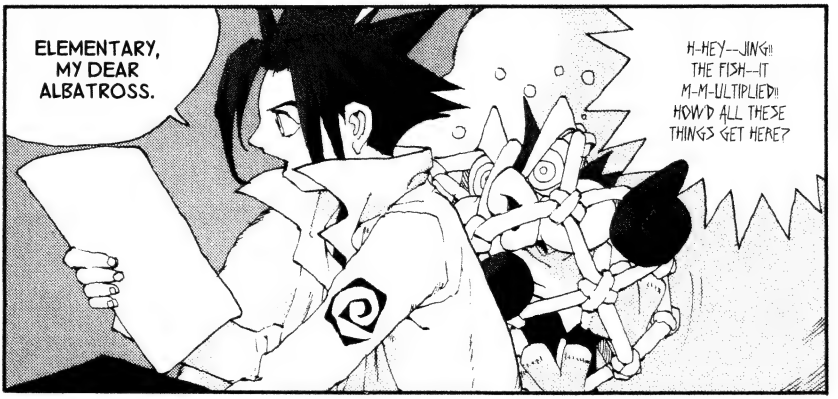
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME, KIDDO!! IN THE NAME OF THE STRAY CATS...NOT BY A LONG SHOT!!

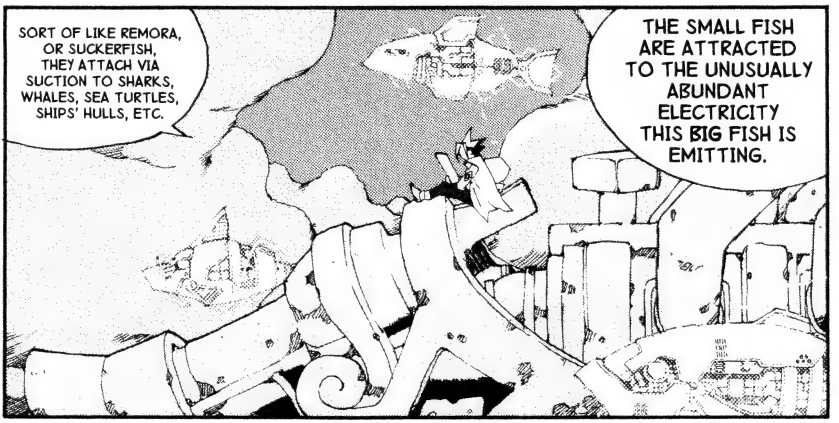
LOOKS LIKE IT'S REELING US IN...EH, KIR?



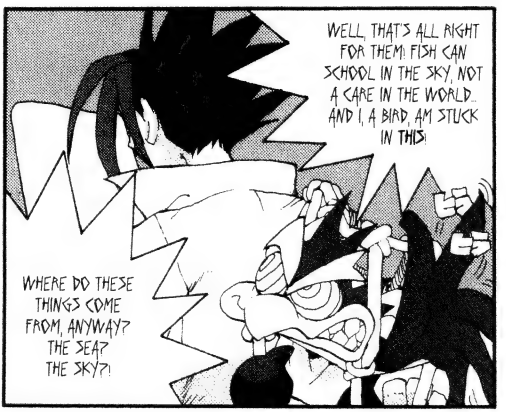

SWING
SWING
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home—♫
SWING
OH!
♫I looked over Jordan—and♫
♫What—did I see
OH!
OH!
OH!
♫Comin for to carry me ♪Home—
JING...I HAD THIS DREAM.
THERE WAS THIS EERIE... MYSTERIOUS... UNUSUALLY BIG...FISH. FROM THE SKY.
AND IT SNAPPED US UP LIKE SO MUCH BAIT, AND--

WAIT...IT WASN'T A DREAM!!
A band of angels A comin after me♪


ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR ALBATROSS.
H-HEY--JING?! THE FISH--IT M-M-ULTIPLIED?! HOW'D ALL THESE THINGS GET HERE?

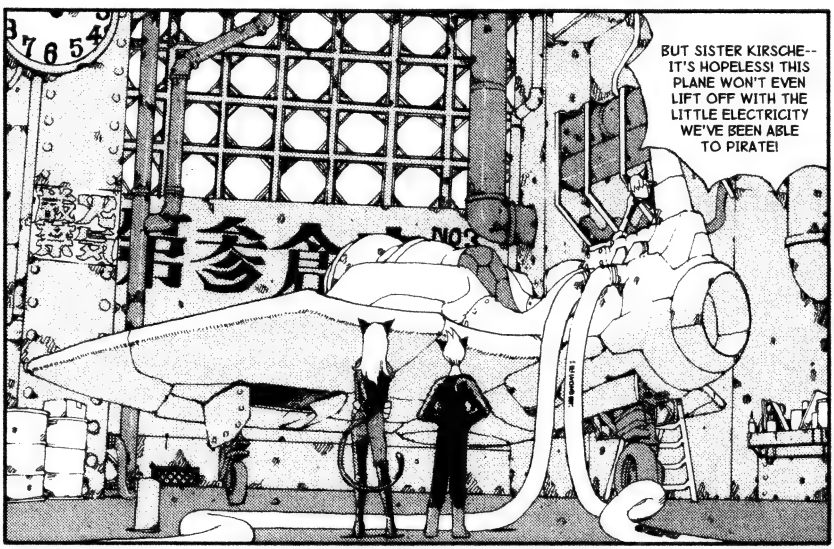

SORT OF LIKE REMORA, OR SUCKERFISH, THEY ATTACH VIA SUCTION TO SHARKS, WHALES, SEA TURTLES, SHIPS' HULLS, ETC.
THE SMALL FISH ARE ATTRACTED TO THE UNUSUALLY ABUNDANT ELECTRICITY THIS BIG FISH IS EMITTING.

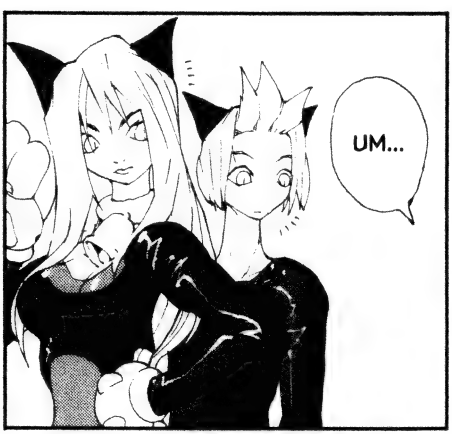
BOTH...AND NEITHER!!


WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT FOR THEM! FISH CAN SCHOOL IN THE SKY, NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD.. AND I, A BIRD, AM STUCK IN THIS!
WHERE DO THESE THINGS COME FROM, ANYWAY? THE SEA? THE SKY?!

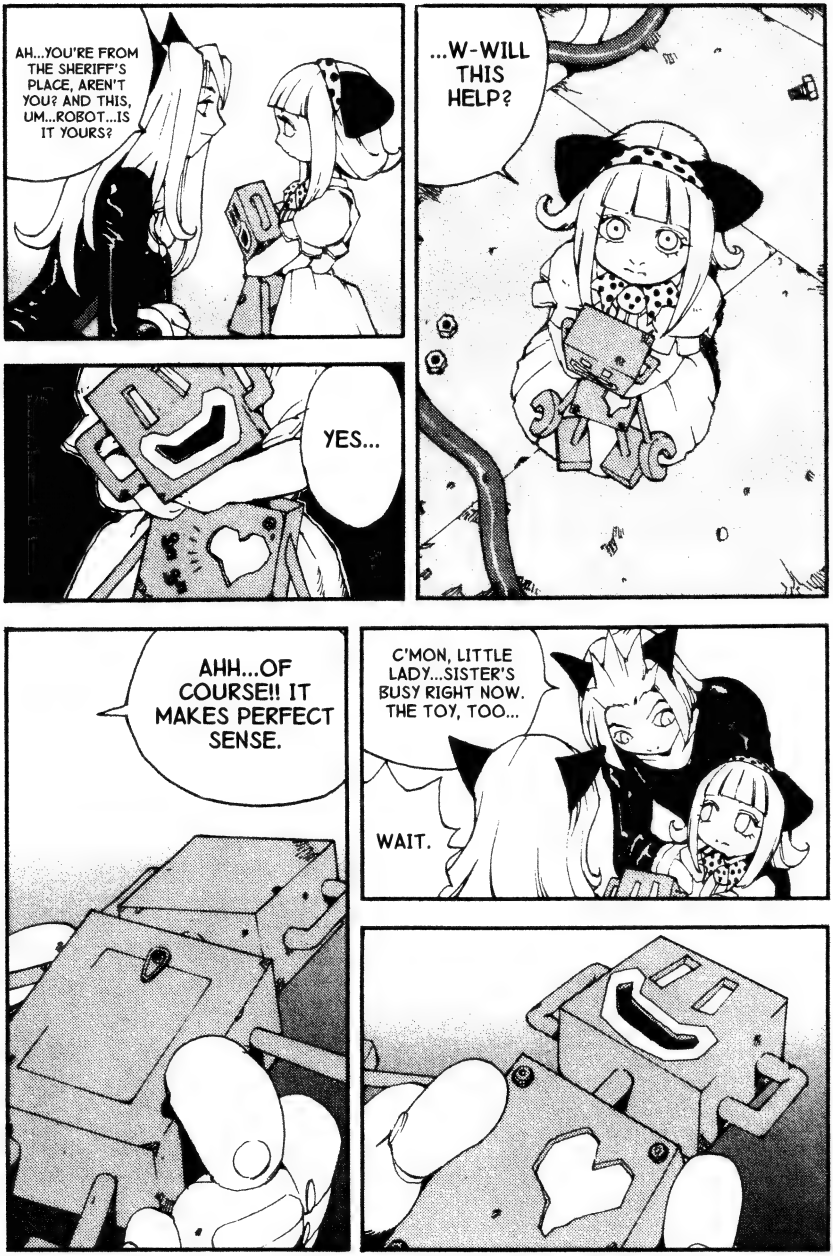
"THE CELESTIAL SEA"...AN OCEAN OVERLOOKING THE EARTH!
I SEE...BOTH THE SKY AND THE SEA, EH...HOLY GROUND, HUH...
POP
AND FUZZY NAVEL IS THE MYSTERIOUS TOWN BUILT ON ITS SHORE.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE CAST THE FIRST DIE...AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED!!
THEN WHY ARE WE EVEN GOING THERE? IF IT'S FISHING YOU WANT, WE CAN DO THAT ON THE GROUND!!
And what is a Celestial Sea, anyway?!

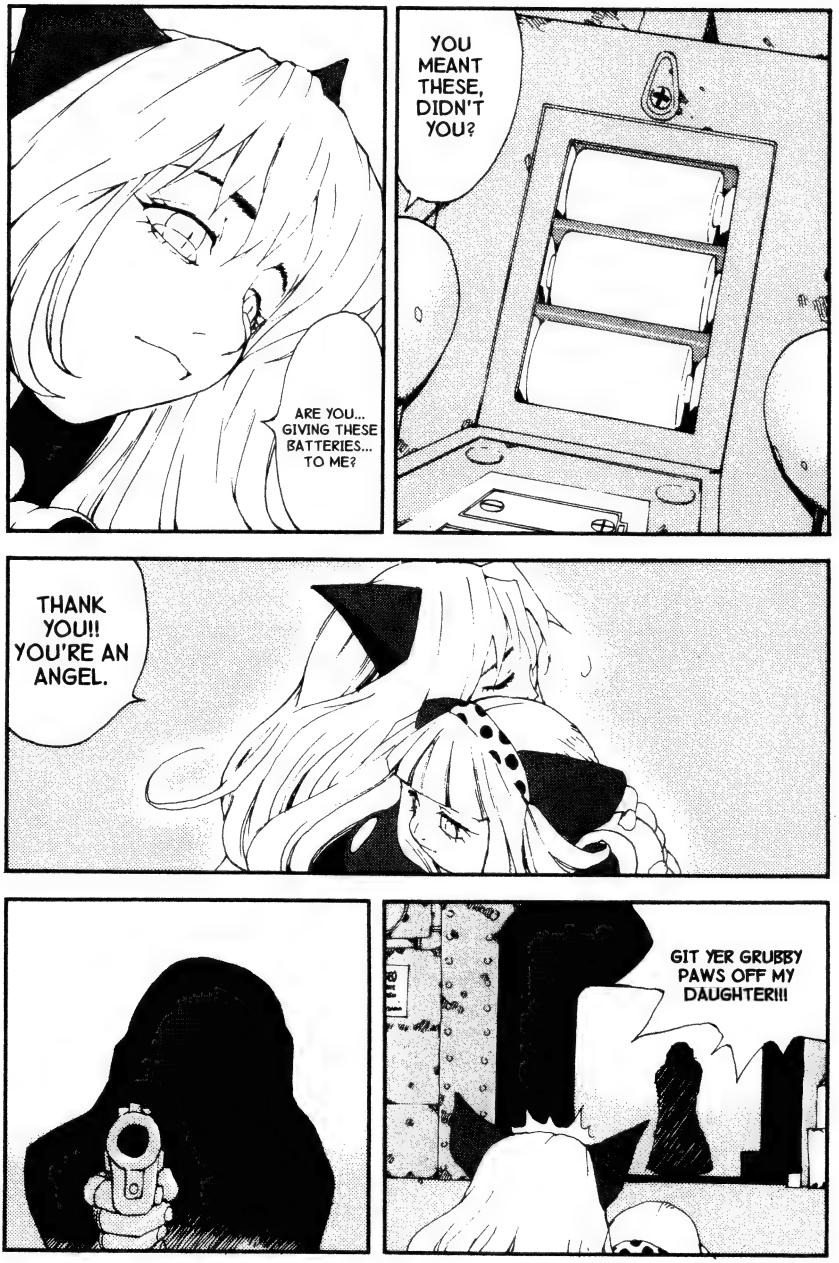
THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE CELESTIAL SEA--I'D BET MY LIFE ON IT!!


BUT SISTER KIRSCHE--IT'S HOPELESS! THIS PLANE WON'T EVEN LIFT OFF WITH THE LITTLE ELECTRICITY WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIRATE!

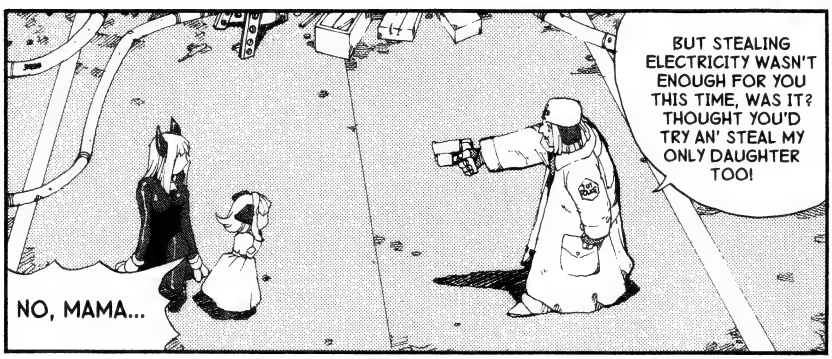

UM...

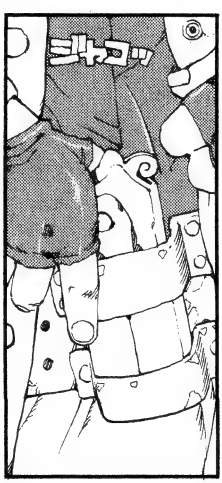
GREAT! AND AS WE SIT HERE HELPLESSLY ON THE GROUND... THAT FISH IS ON ITS WAY TO FUZZY NAVEL!!

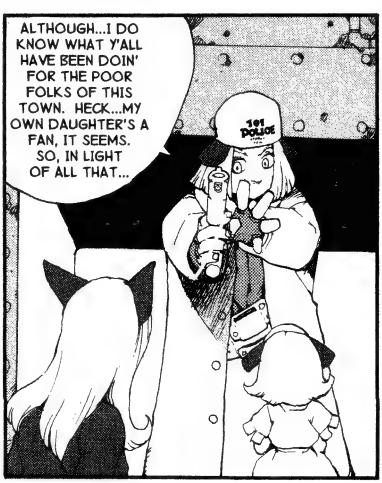

AH...YOU'RE FROM THE SHERIFF'S PLACE, AREN'T YOU? AND THIS, UM...ROBOT...IS IT YOURS?
...W-WILL THIS HELP?
YES...
AHH...OF COURSE!! IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.
C'MON, LITTLE LADY...SISTER'S BUSY RIGHT NOW. THE TOY, TOO...
WAIT.

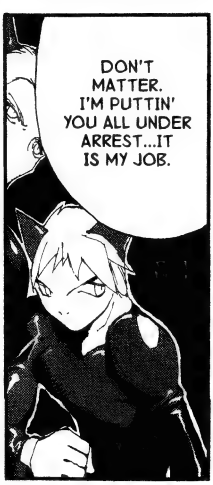

ARE YOU... GIVING THESE BATTERIES... TO ME?
YOU MEANT THESE, DIDN'T YOU?
THANK YOU!! YOU'RE AN ANGEL.
GIT YER GRUBBY PAWS OFF MY DAUGHTER!!!

I'VE HEARD OF YOUR LITTLE GANG. THE STRAY CATS ELECTRICITY STEALIN' GANG... AM I RIGHT?
101 POLICE


BUT STEALING ELECTRICITY WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU THIS TIME, WAS IT? THOUGHT YOU'D TRY AN' STEAL MY ONLY DAUGHTER TOO!
NO, MAMA...


ヨトコッ!

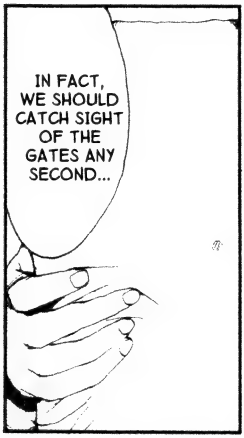

ALTHOUGH...I DO KNOW WHAT Y'ALL HAVE BEEN DOIN' FOR THE POOR FOLKS OF THIS TOWN. HECK...MY OWN DAUGHTER'S A FAN, IT SEEMS. SO, IN LIGHT OF ALL THAT...
101 POLICE


DON'T MATTER. I'M PUTTIN' YOU ALL UNDER ARREST...IT IS MY JOB.

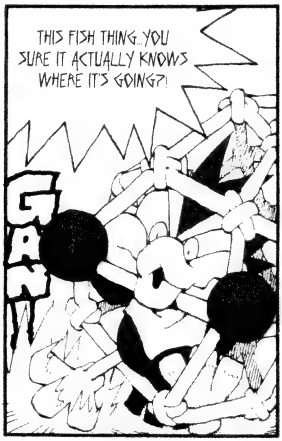
VEEEEEEE
101 POLICE
...I COME BEARIN' SPECIALLY MADE HANDCUFFS!!
101 POLICE
WE ARE VERY SHORT OF HANDS
WE'RE IN BUSINESS! YOU CAN GO AFTER THEM NOW, SISTER! YOU CAN FLY!!
REALLY...? THEN I'D BETTER HURRY!

101
POLICE
ヴ…
VEEE

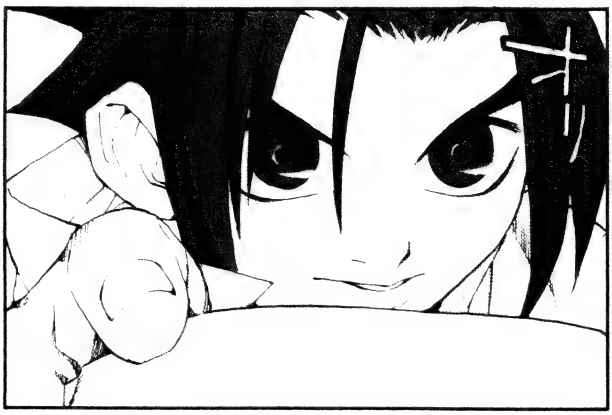
NAVEL, HUH? I CAN'T EVEN SEE A BELLY!!

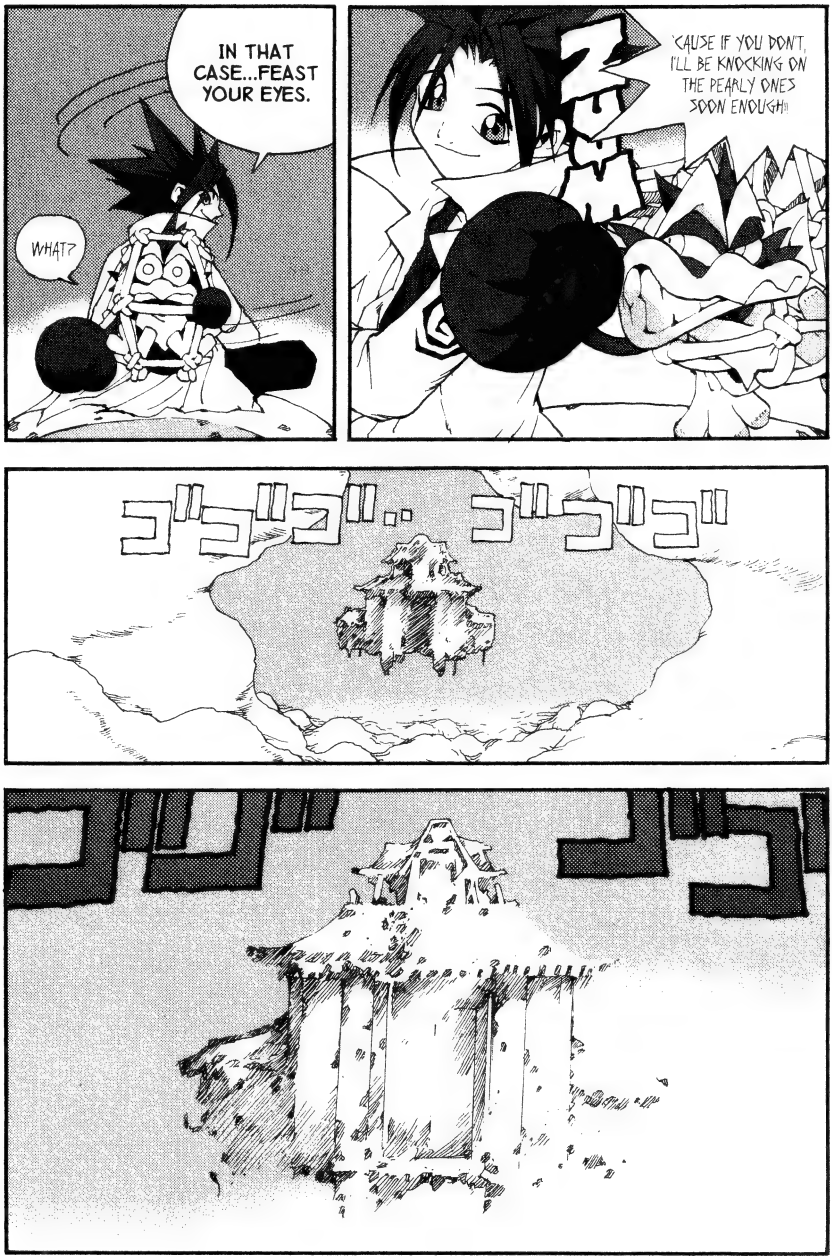

IN FACT, WE SHOULD CATCH SIGHT OF THE GATES ANY SECOND...

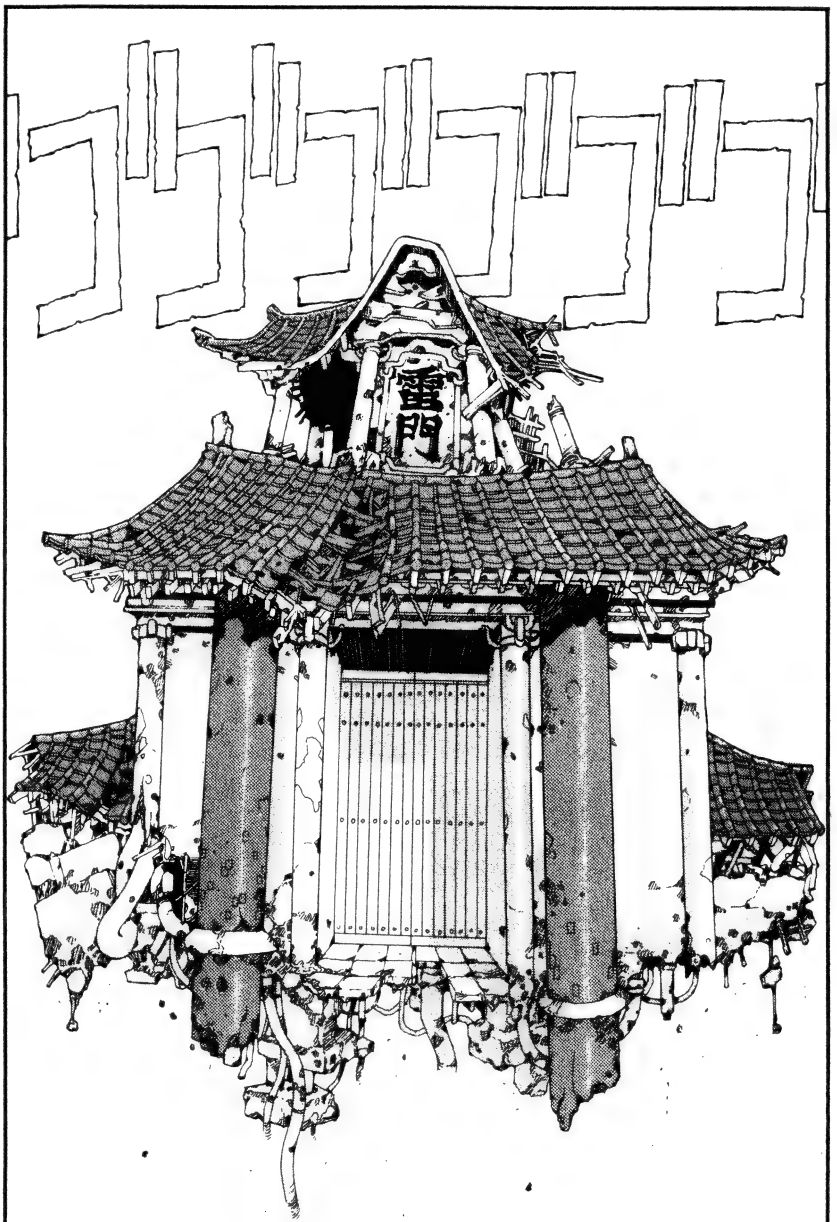
OH, IT KNOWS, ALL RIGHT. IT'D FOLLOW THE SCENT OF ITS HOME ANYWHERE...LIKE A SALMON SWIMMING UPSTREAM!!


THIS FISH THING. YOU SURE IT ACTUALLY KNOWS WHERE IT'S GOING?!
GAN!

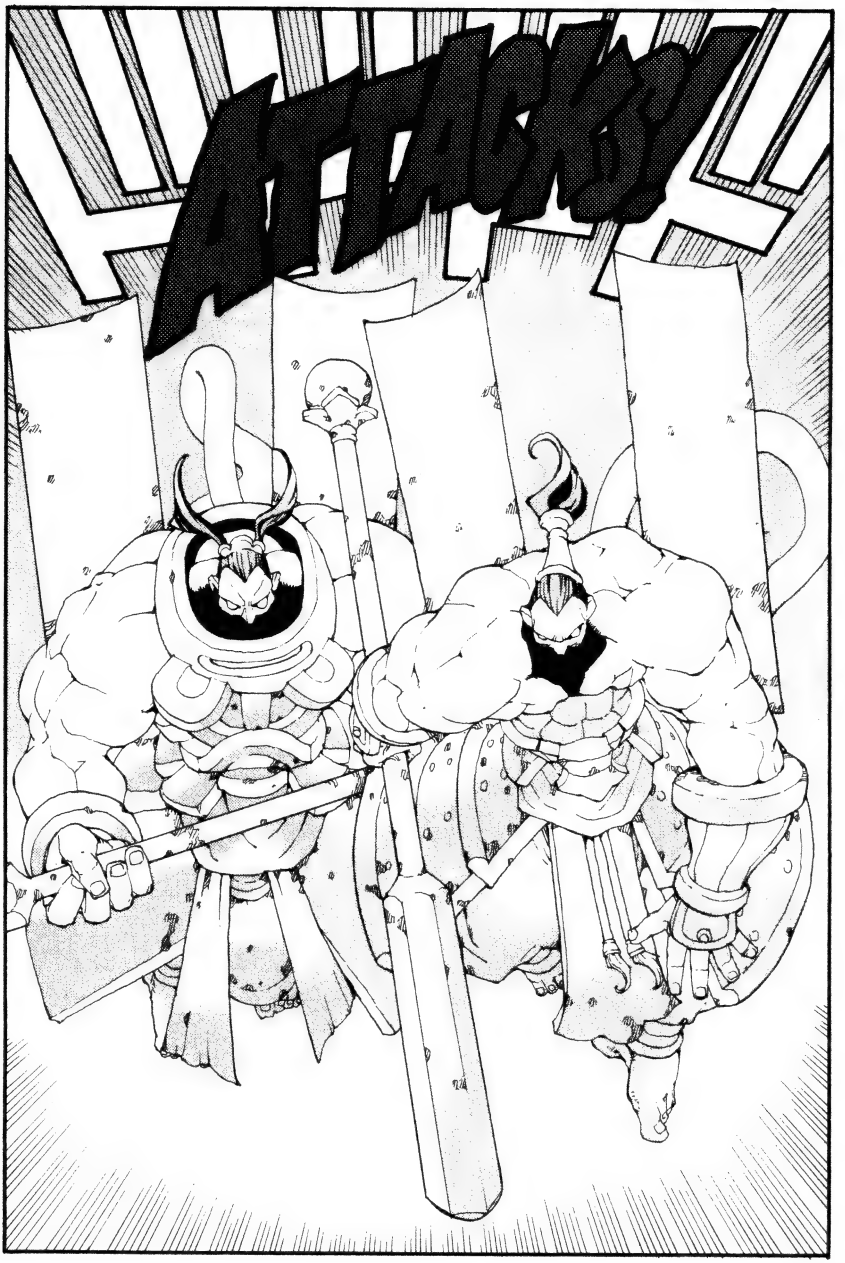
G-GATES?! IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU WANNA HURRY UP AND POINT THEM OUT TO ME?!

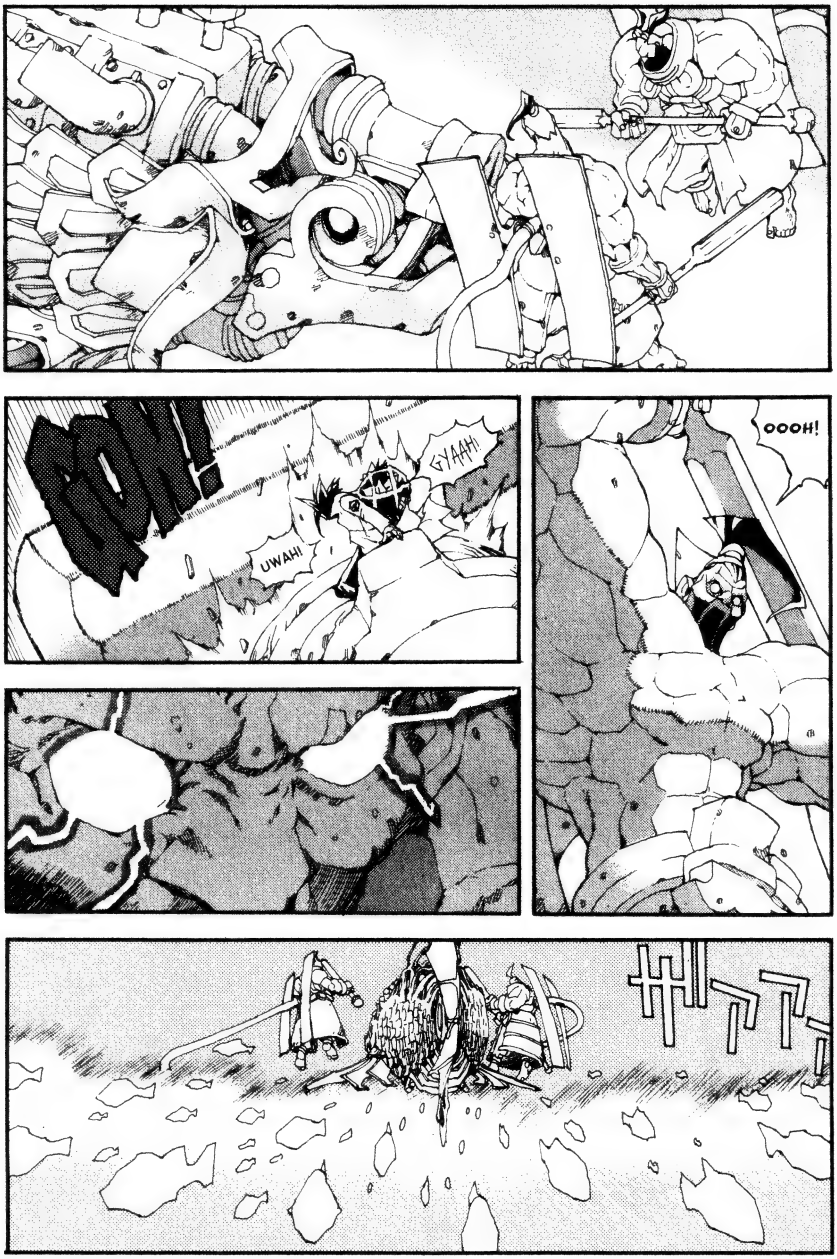


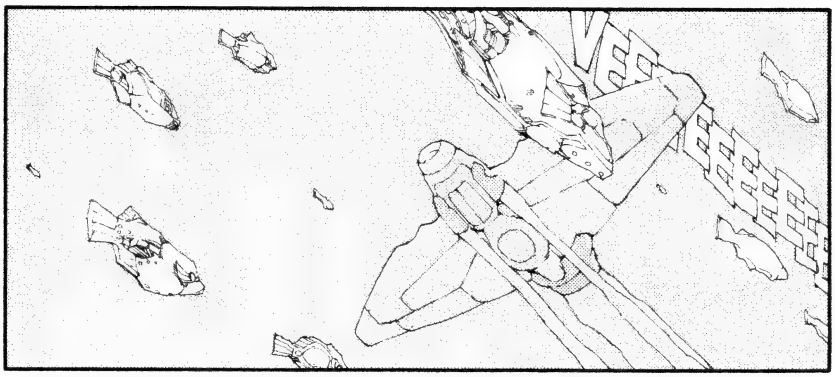

IN THAT CASE...FEAST YOUR EYES.
WHAT?
'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T, I'LL BE KNOCKING ON THE PEARLY ONES SOON ENOUGH!!
ゴゴゴゴ... ゴゴゴゴ


重門

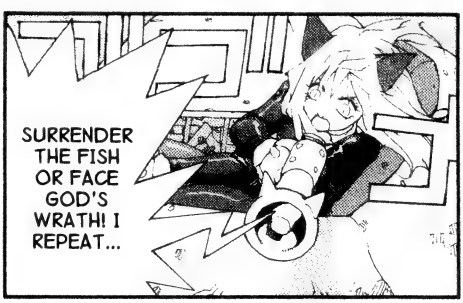
BUT FOR NOW, THE FISH NEEDS TO RETURN TO ITS HOME-- KIRI!
GUESS IT'S A LITTLE IMPOLITE TO DROP IN UNANNOUNCED WE'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT NEXT TIME!
ゴゴゴ
ビキ!!
ゴトン
OOH.
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!!

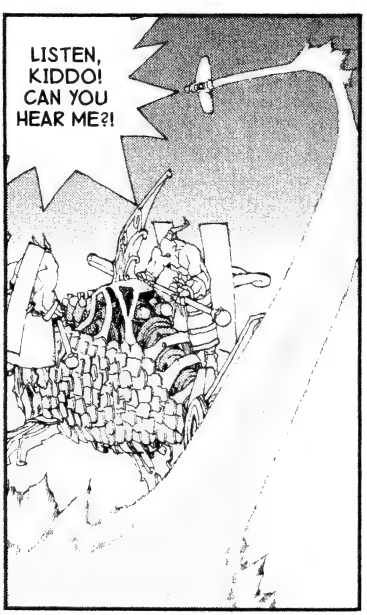

ATTACK!!

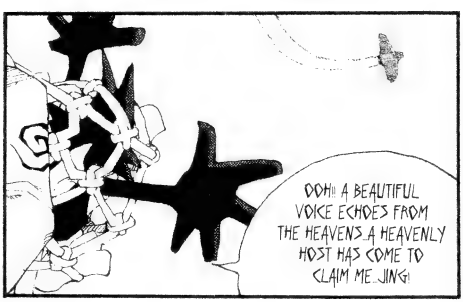

GYAAH!
UWAH!
OOOH!

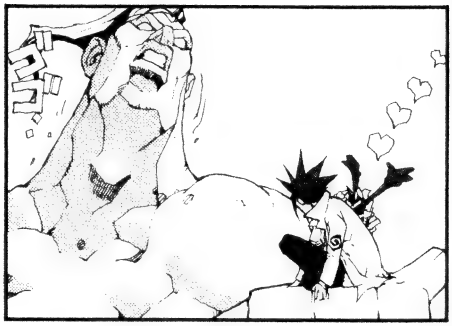


BUT WHAT... WHAT'S IT DOING?!
IT... IT'S...THE FISH!!!


SURRENDER THE FISH OR FACE GOD'S WRATH! I REPEAT...

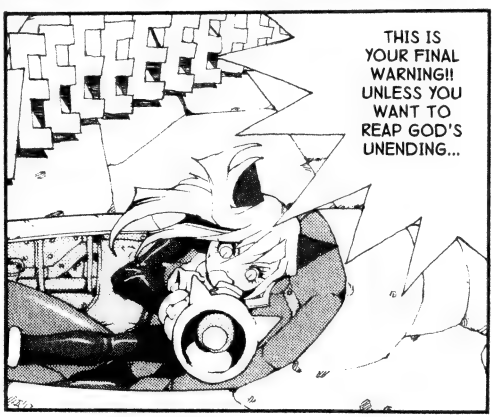

LISTEN, KIDDO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!


OOH! A BEAUTIFUL VOICE ECHOES FROM THE HEAVENS..A HEAVENLY HOST HAS COME TO CLAIM ME..JING!

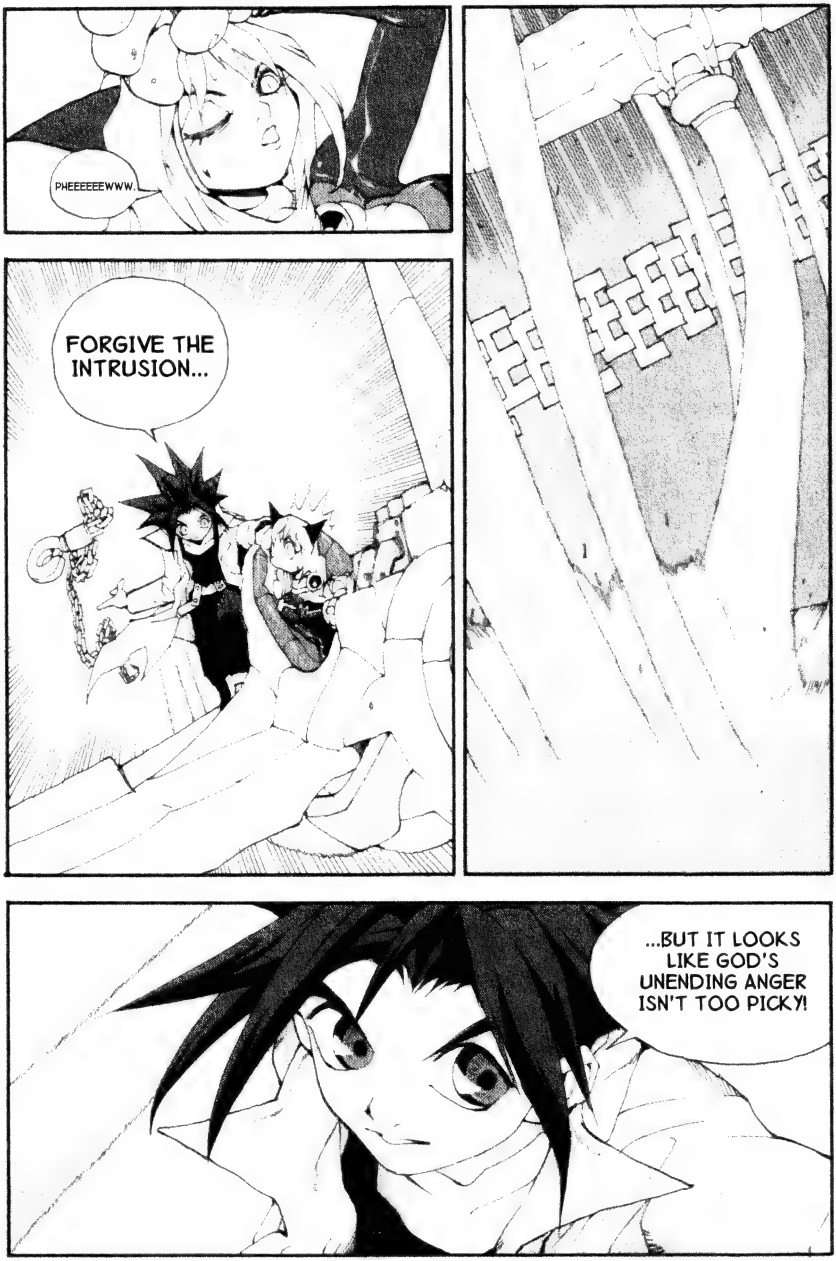


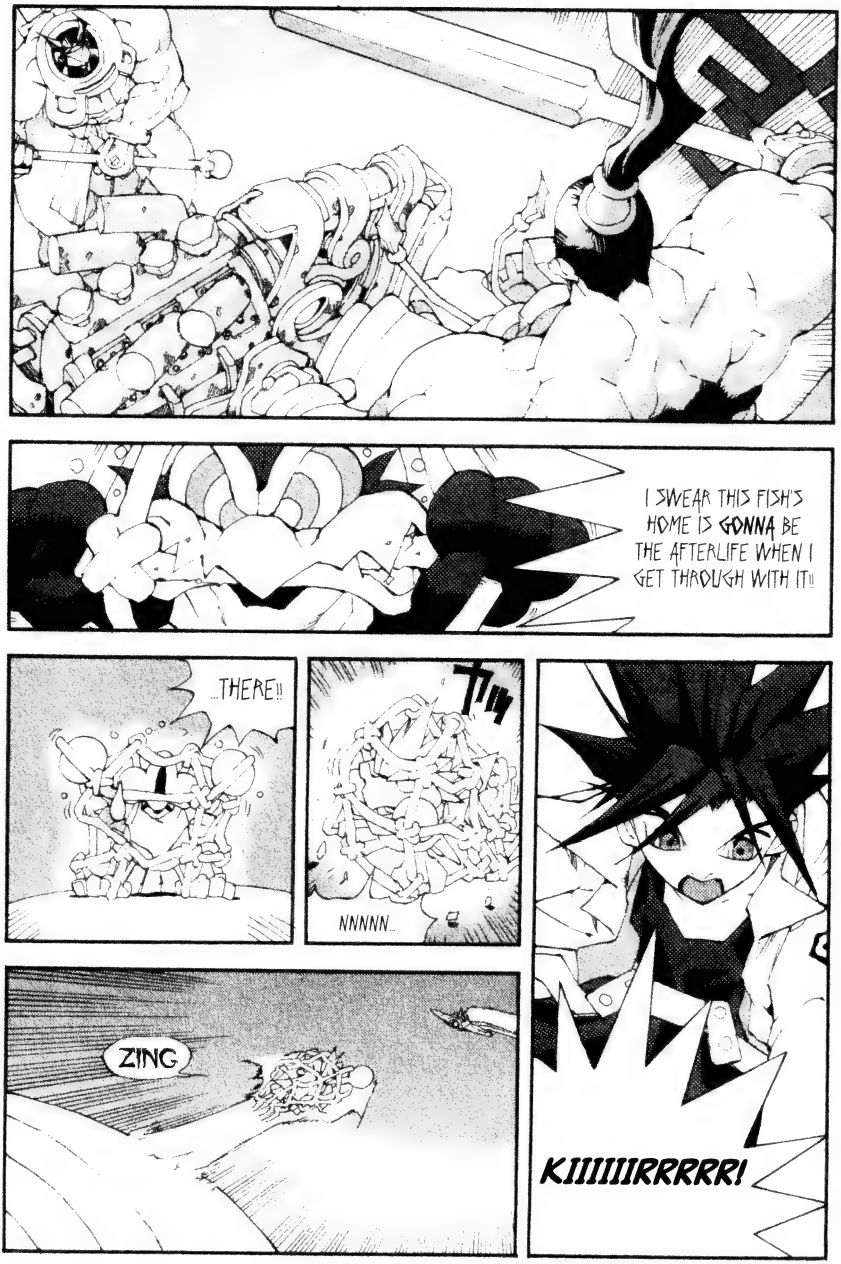
MORE LIKE A PREYING CAT.
Can't she see I'm busy here?!

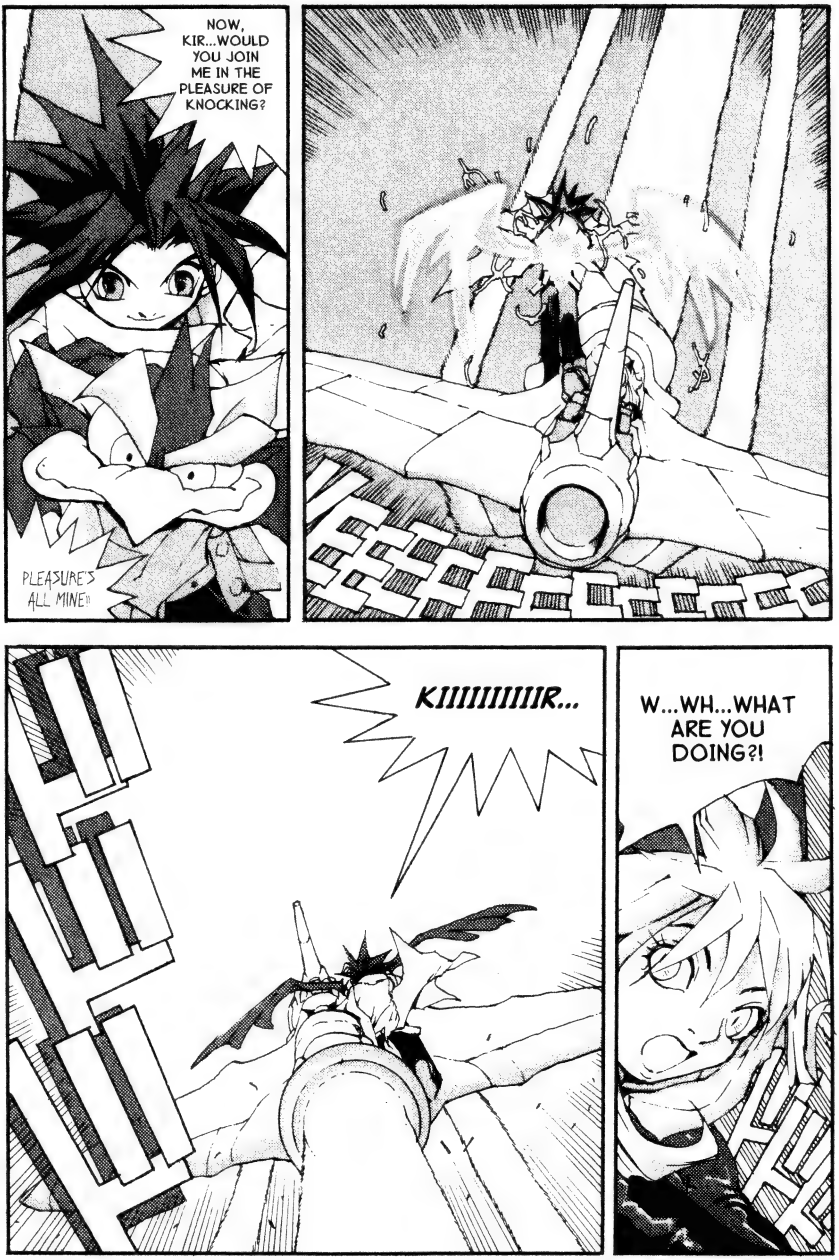
...ULP...


THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING!! UNLESS YOU WANT TO REAP GOD'S UNENDING...

...ANGER!!
I WASN'T PLANNING ON STOPPING THE KID THIS WAY!
KYAAA!!


PHEEEEEEWWW.
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE GOD'S UNENDING ANGER ISN'T TOO PICKY!


I SWEAR THIS FISH'S HOME IS GONNA BE THE AFTERLIFE WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH IT!!
...THERE!!
NNNNN...
ZING
KIIIIIIRRRRR!


NOW, KIR...WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN THE PLEASURE OF KNOCKING?
PLEASURE'S ALL MINE!!
KIIIIIIIIIR...
W...WH...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

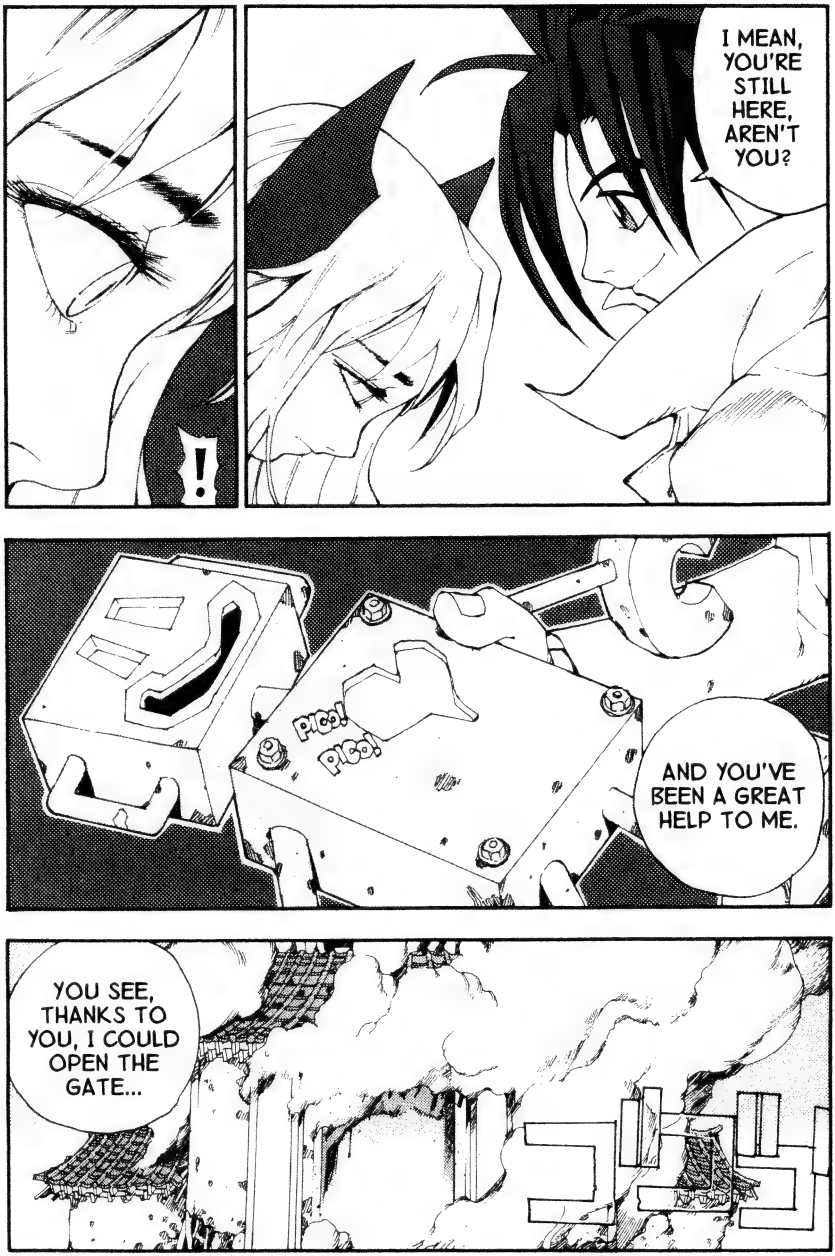
...ROYALE!!!

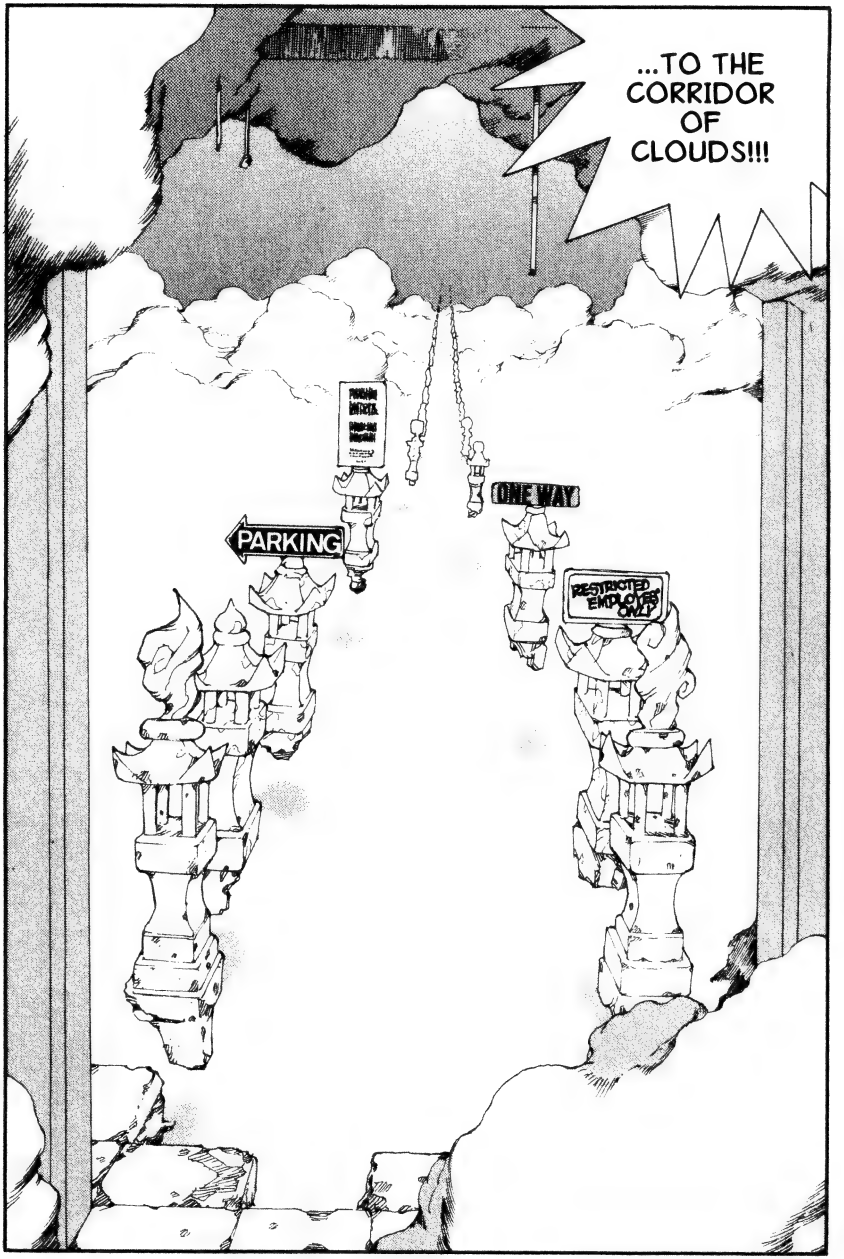
WAIT--WHAT ARE YOU--?!!

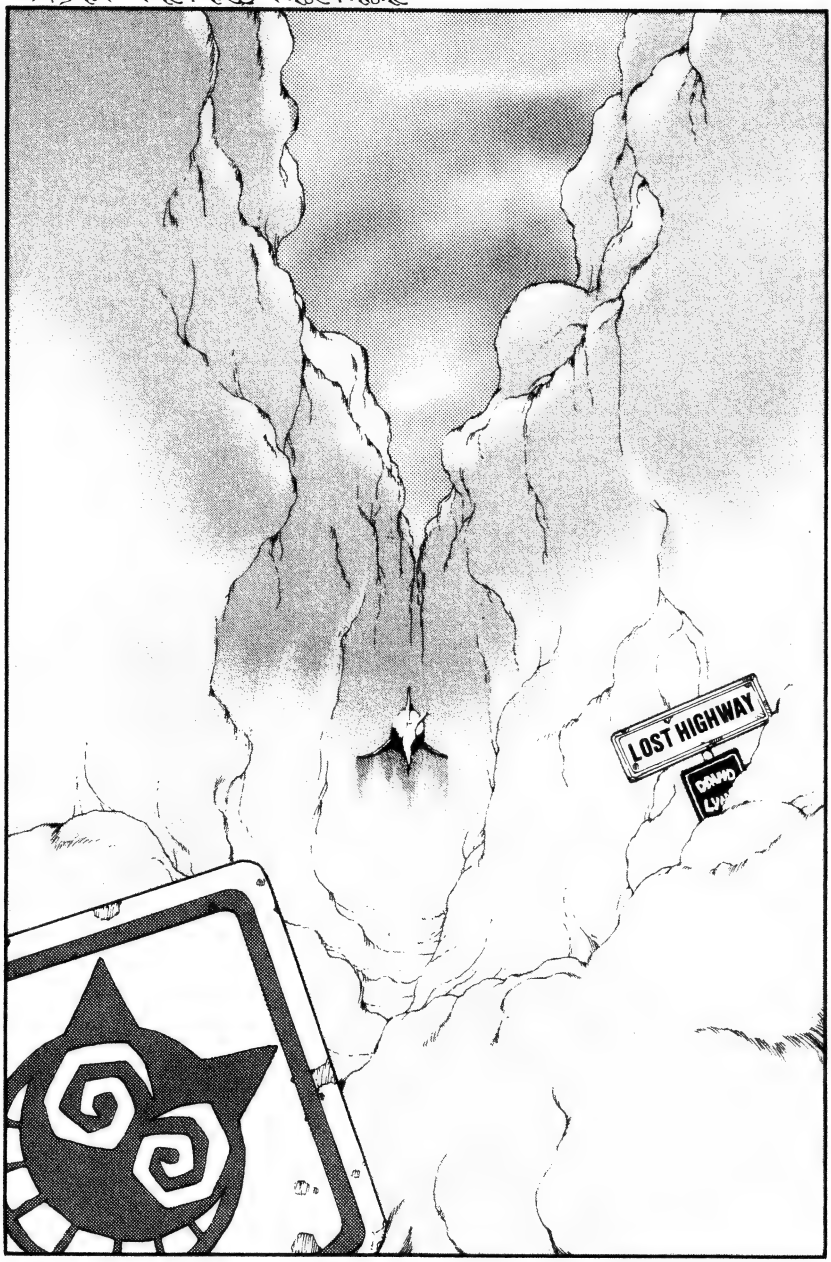
THE OTHER FISH?!
THEY DO LOVE THEIR ELECTRICITY...AND WE AIM TO PLEASE!!

GWAAAH!
BOOM!

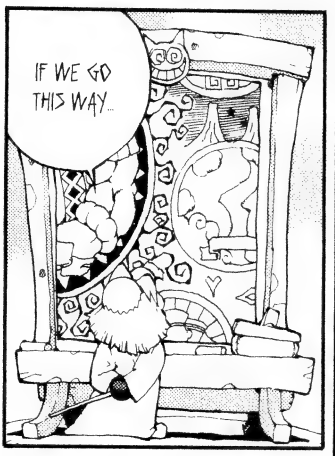
...SOB... SOB...
ゴゴゴ!!
THERE THERE, SWEETIE YOU CAN CRY ON MY SHOULDER ANYTIME!
EVERYTHING'S RUINED... EVERYTHING! I'VE FAILED THEM ALL... ALL THE VOLUNTEERS... THAT LITTLE GIRL'S HEART... SOB...!
EVERYTHING'S NOT RUINED...


!
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL HERE, AREN'T YOU?
PIGO! PIGO!
AND YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP TO ME.
YOU SEE, THANKS TO YOU, I COULD OPEN THE GATE...

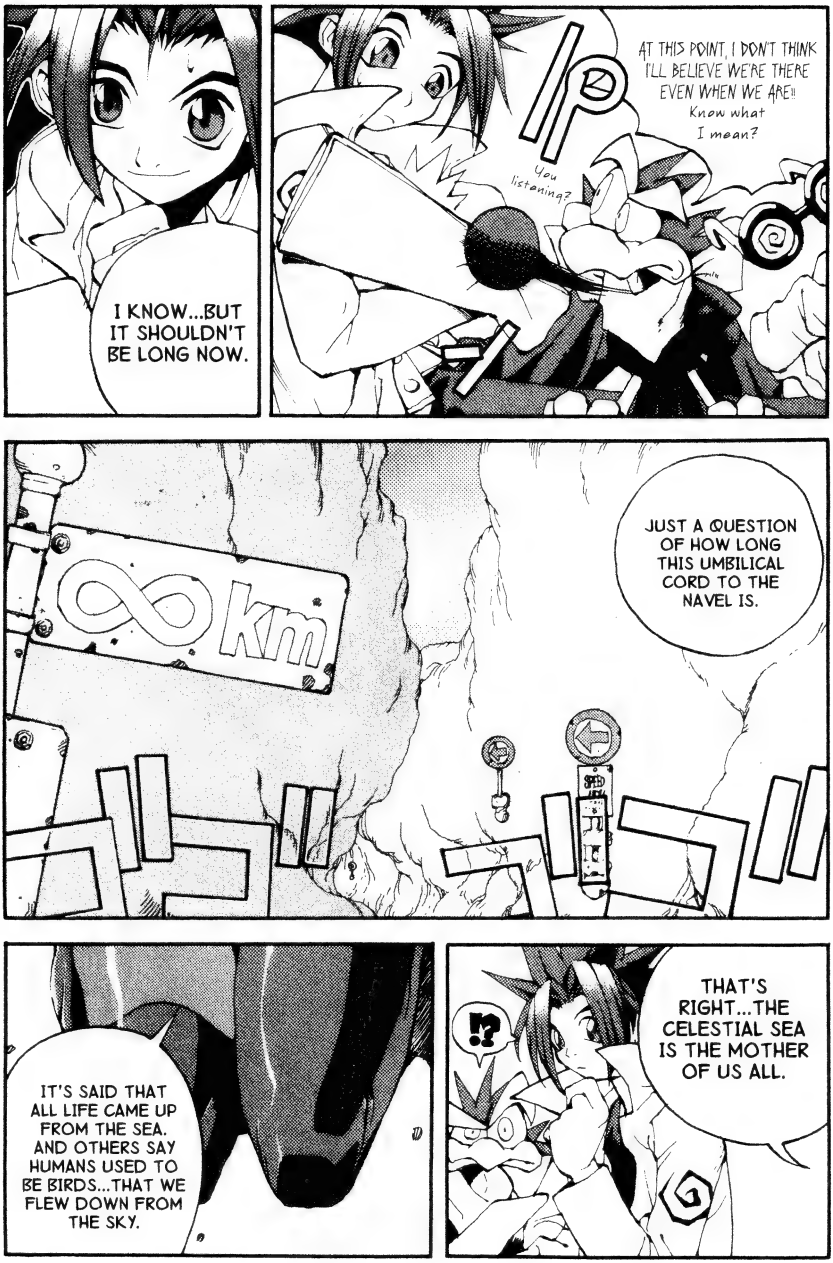

...TO THE CORRIDOR OF CLOUDS!!!
PARKING
ONE WAY
RESTRICTED EMPLOYEES ONLY


LOST HIGHWAY

HMMMMM..THIS THE SAME CORRIDOR OF CLOUDS ON THE MAP?


IF WE GO THIS WAY...

...WILL WE..GET TO FUZZY NAVEL SOON..PLEASE?


I KNOW...BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG NOW.
AT THIS POINT, I DON'T THINK I'LL BELIEVE WE'RE THERE EVEN WHEN WE ARE!! Know what I mean?
You listening?
JUST A QUESTION OF HOW LONG THIS UMBILICAL CORD TO THE NAVEL IS.
km
IT'S SAID THAT ALL LIFE CAME UP FROM THE SEA. AND OTHERS SAY HUMANS USED TO BE BIRDS...THAT WE FLEW DOWN FROM THE SKY.
!?
THAT'S RIGHT...THE CELESTIAL SEA IS THE MOTHER OF US ALL.

AND THANKS TO THOSE THEORIES, WE GET FISHES SWIMMING IN THE SKY?!
Downright misleading, if you ask me!!
THOSE BELIEFS ARE SUPPOSED TO REASSURE US...TO TELL US NO MATTER HOW DISTANT THE SKY...NO MATTER HOW FAR BEYOND THE HORIZON...THERE IS ALWAYS AN END. THERE'S ALWAYS AN ANSWER. BUT THOSE THEORIES ARE UNCERTAIN FOR A REASON.
BUT THE CELESTIAL SEA SUPPORTS BOTH THEORIES.
...BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL IT, IT IS THE MOTHER OF US ALL--THOSE WHO WALK THE EARTH...AND THOSE WHO TRAVEL THE SEA.
SOME CALL FUZZY NAVEL HEAVEN... SOME CALL IT LIMBO...

SO YOU COULD SAY THIS CORRIDOR... IS AN UMBILICAL CORD.
OOH! DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE HERE? AT LAST?! MOMMY?!!
W-WE'VE STOPPED!!
WALK
NAH...JUST A TRAFFIC LIGHT.
WHAT?!!!

TH NDRSTORM

I'LL BE TAKEN BY THE NAVEL BEFORE WE EVER GET TO THE NAVEL IN THIS BUCKET OF FISHBOLTS!
ZZZZZ
DON'T WORRY, KIR. YOU'VE GOT NO UMBILICAL CORD--HATCHED FROM AN EGG, REMEMBER?
WHAT IN BLAZES?!!!!!
OF COURSE.
H-HEY, MISS KITTY... Y-YOU'RE COMPLETELY CALM AND COLLECTED... RIGHT?
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!!!!!!
KKKK

HUH?
Sometimes I really don't get you broads...
AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, THUNDER IS ONLY THE VOICE OF GOD, AND LIGHTNING HIS ALMIGHTY GAZE.
AND THE PEOPLE OF FUZZY NAVEL CURRENTLY HAVE A MONOPOLY ON GOD'S VOICE AND GAZE...IS THAT IT?
EASY, DOCTOR KIR...IT'S LIKE THIS.
NO, JING-- NOT YOU, TOO!!

...AND SOON AFTER, LIGHTNING--ELECTRICITY--BECAME THE PROPERTY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.
SEE, LIGHTNING USED TO BE THIS MYSTERIOUS TECHNIQUE ONLY A GOD COULD PERFORM...
GONG
...BUT ONE DAY, HUMANS CAUGHT THAT LIGHTNING, HARNESSED IT AND CALLED IT ELECTRICITY...
BUT THEN, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE HUMAN WHO COULD CONTROL ALL ELECTRICITY WOULD REIGN OVER ALL THE HUMANS.

AND VOILÀ-- A NEW GOD WAS BORN!
ARE YOU SAYING...THIS FAKE GOD PERSON IS STILL IN FUZZY NAVEL?!
AND THOSE GUYS... THE CAHIER SECT...
ELECTRICITY... LIGHTNING... SHOULD SHINE FOR EVERYONE.

...ARE GREEDILY HOARDING IT ALL!! THEY WON'T EVEN DISTRIBUTE *SPARKS* TO THE PEOPLE!!!
A LITTLE LOUDER, PLEASE? I DON'T THINK THEY CAN HEAR YOU DOWN THERE.
!!
!!?

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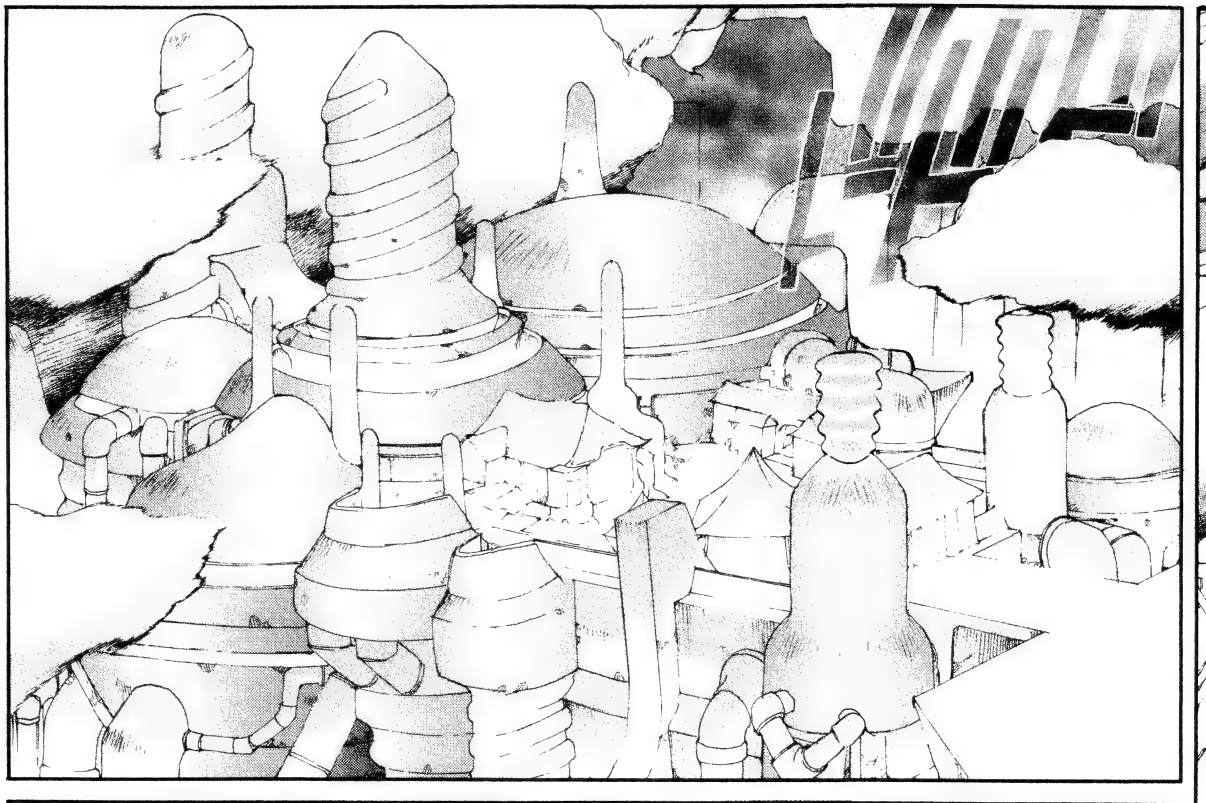
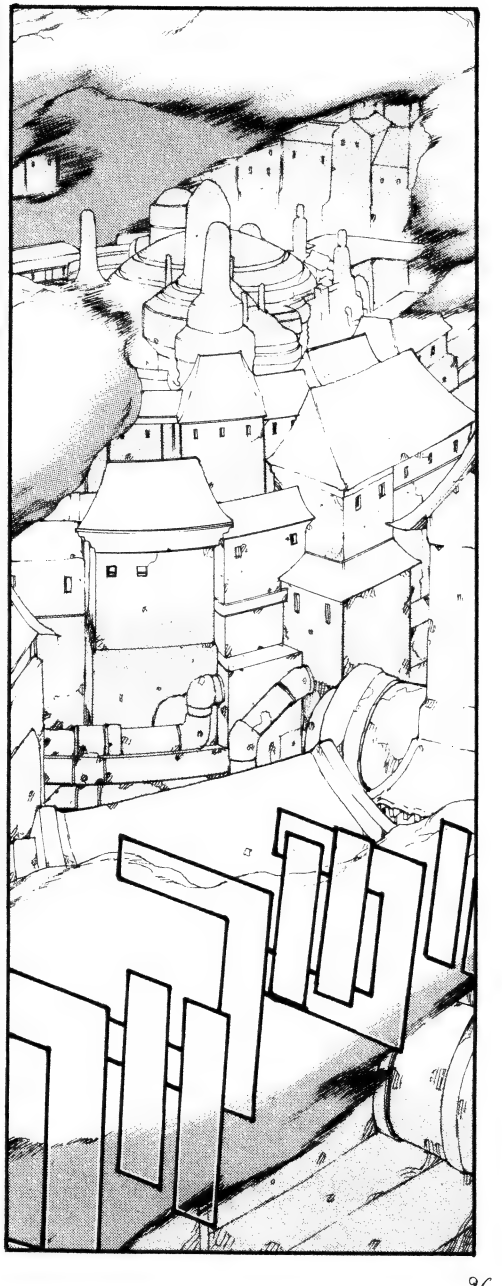
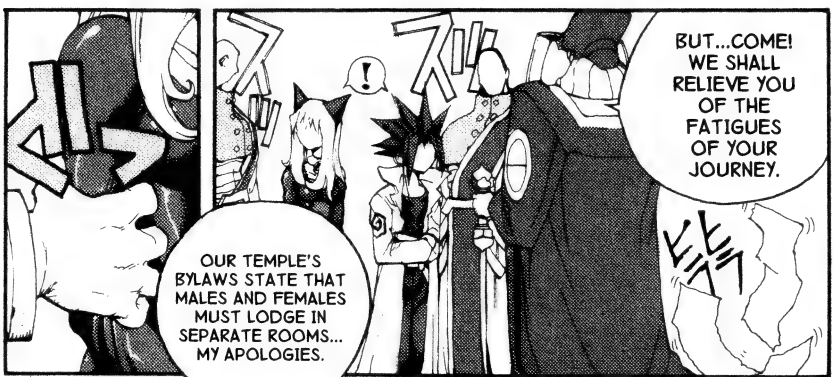
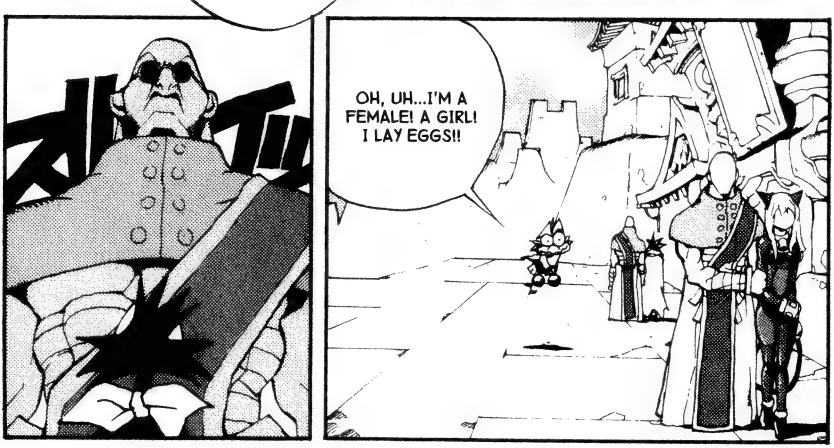




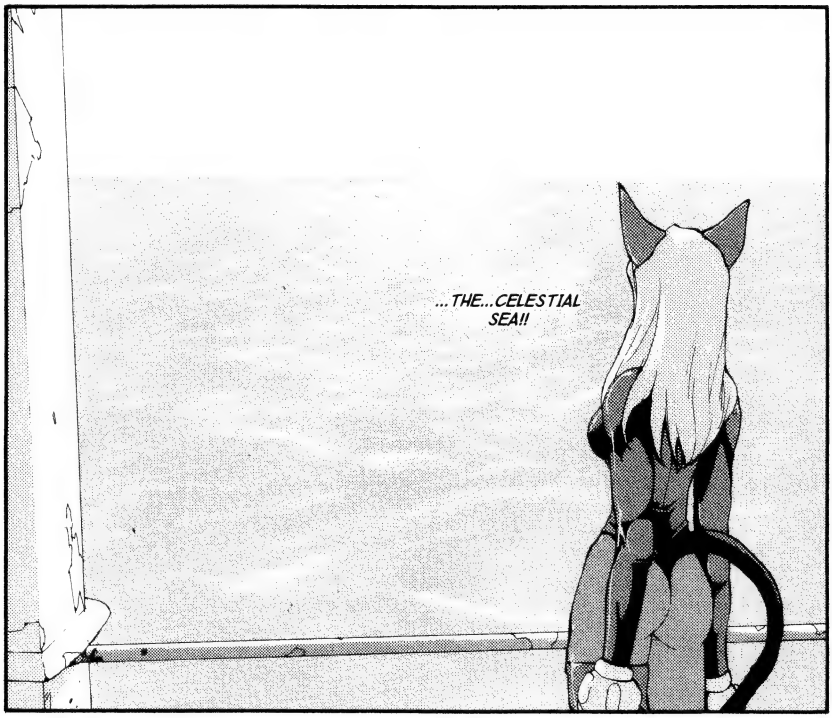
AHHH...FORTUNATE ONES. WELCOME BACK TO FUZZY NAVEL...
I AM ARAK... YOUR HUMBLE PRIEST. I WONDER... HOW WAS IT GETTING HERE? YOUR LONG JOURNEY AGAINST THE STREAM OF LIFE...
HEY, LOOK, BUDDY--IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GUYS MADE IT EASY! SLAMMING THE DOOR ON US TRAPPING US IN LIGHTNING AND THIS IS A TERRIBLE MAP!
I SEE...YES...I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE VERY GOOD.

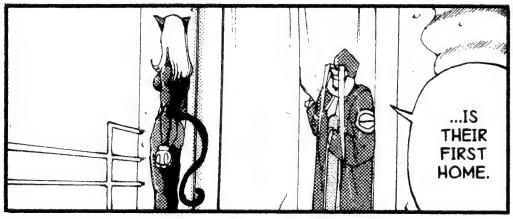
A MAP LIKE THIS COULD NOT HAVE MUCH MEANING TO MANY PEOPLE.
Only a very few lives have any predestined path.

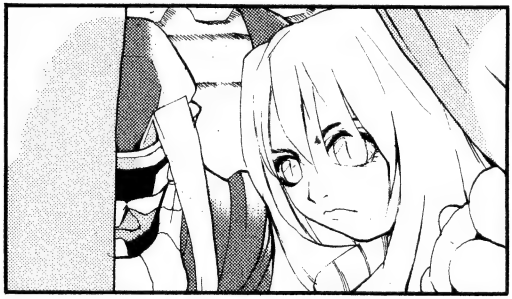

!
BUT...COME! WE SHALL RELIEVE YOU OF THE FATIGUES OF YOUR JOURNEY.
OUR TEMPLE'S BYLAWS STATE THAT MALES AND FEMALES MUST LODGE IN SEPARATE ROOMS... MY APOLOGIES.

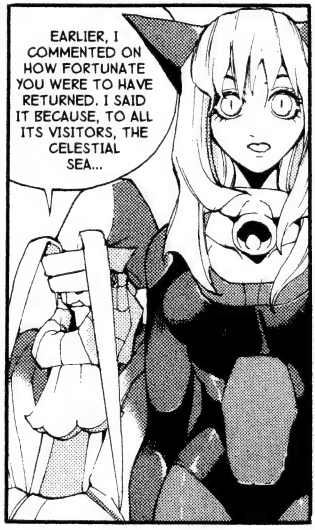

OH, UH...I'M A FEMALE! A GIRL! I LAY EGGS!!

COME NOW... THIS WAY FOR FEMALES.
HEY...I TOLD YOU...I'M A LADY! C'MON...CAN'T YOU TELL?!
I TRUST YOU SHALL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO IT...AS HAVE WE.
AH...FROM THE START, EVEN WE HAVE BEEN BEWILDERED AS TO HOW OUR TEMPLE COULD HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH SO MUCH LIGHT.
PLEASE...HAVE A LOOK.
IT... IT'S...

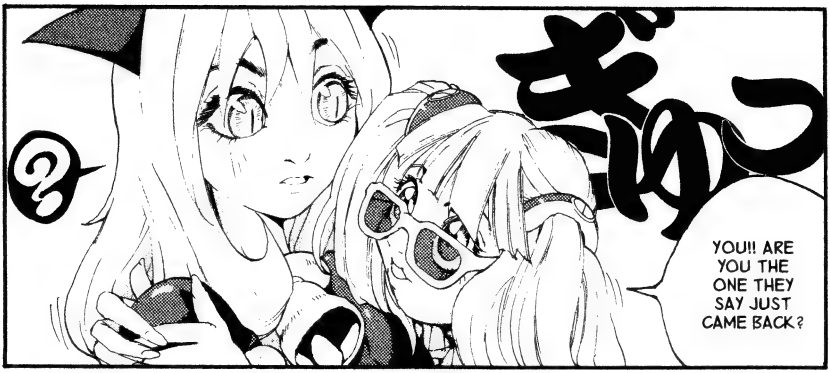

...THE...CELESTIAL SEA!!


...IS THEIR FIRST HOME.




EARLIER, I COMMENTED ON HOW FORTUNATE YOU WERE TO HAVE RETURNED. I SAID IT BECAUSE, TO ALL ITS VISITORS, THE CELESTIAL SEA...

ER...SO, THIS MUST BE THE GIRLS'...
VERY WELL...THIS HUMBLE PRIEST MUST NOW TAKE HIS LEAVE.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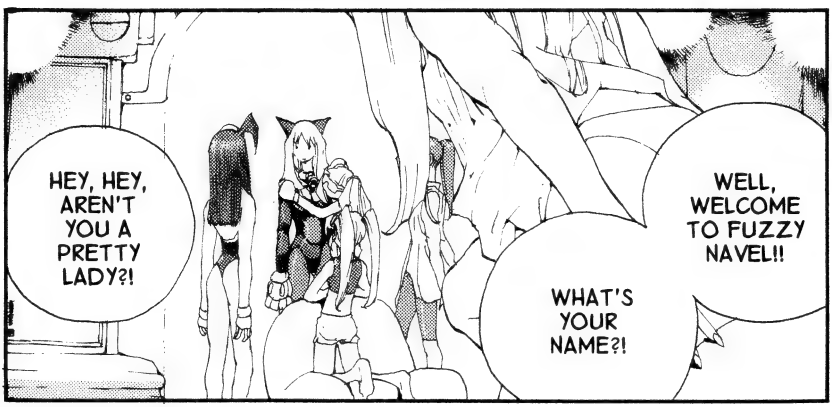
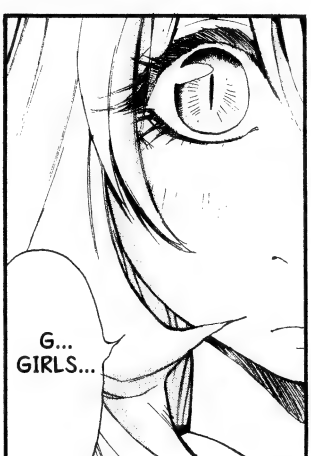
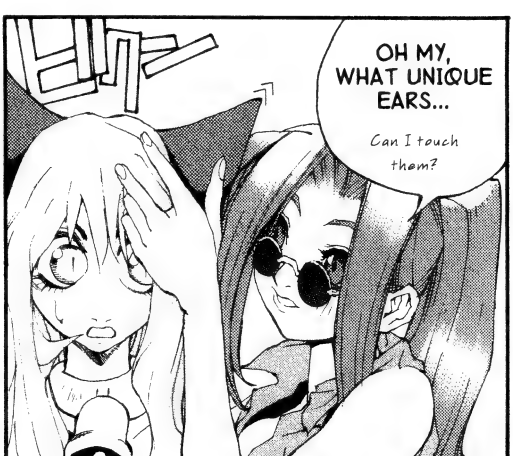
YOU!! ARE YOU THE ONE THEY SAY JUST CAME BACK?


HEY, HEY, AREN'T YOU A PRETTY LADY?!
WELL, WELCOME TO FUZZY NAVEL!!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?!


G... GIRLS...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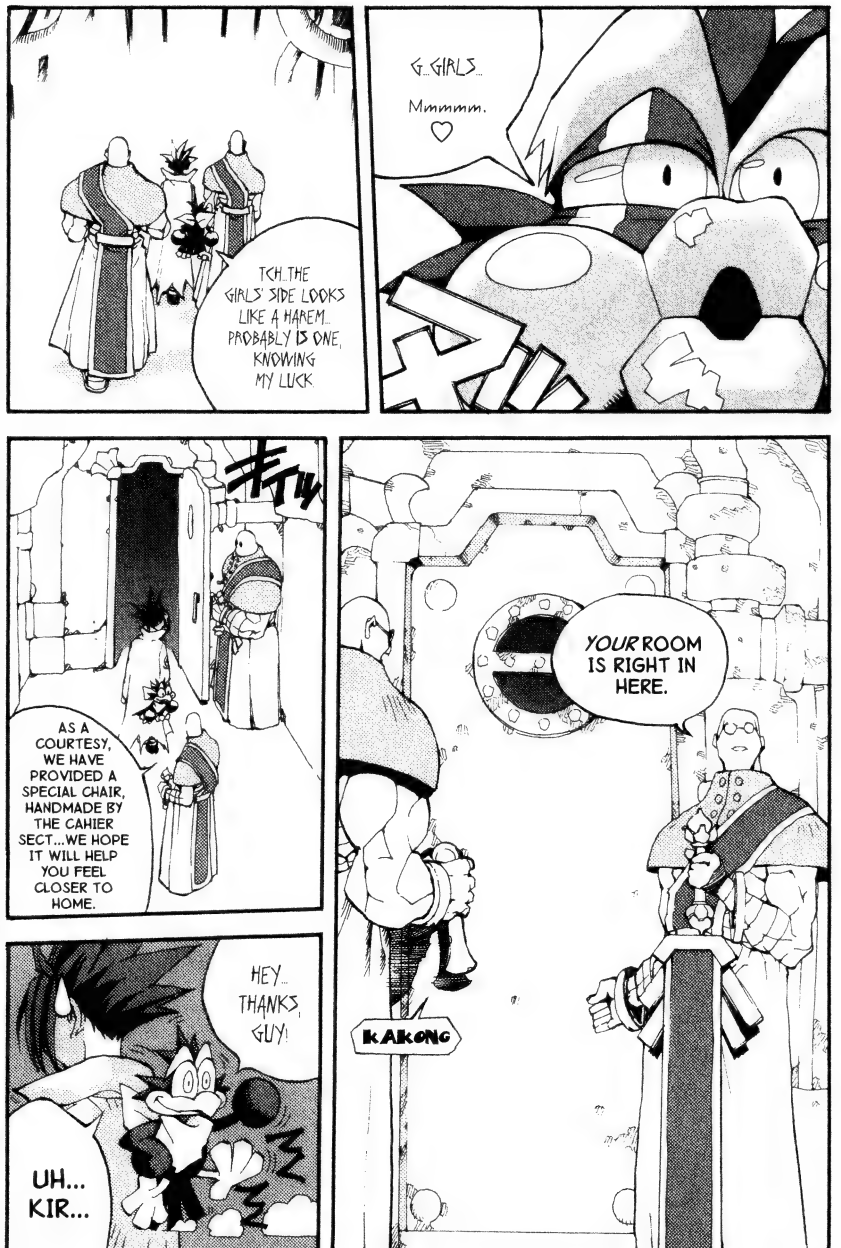
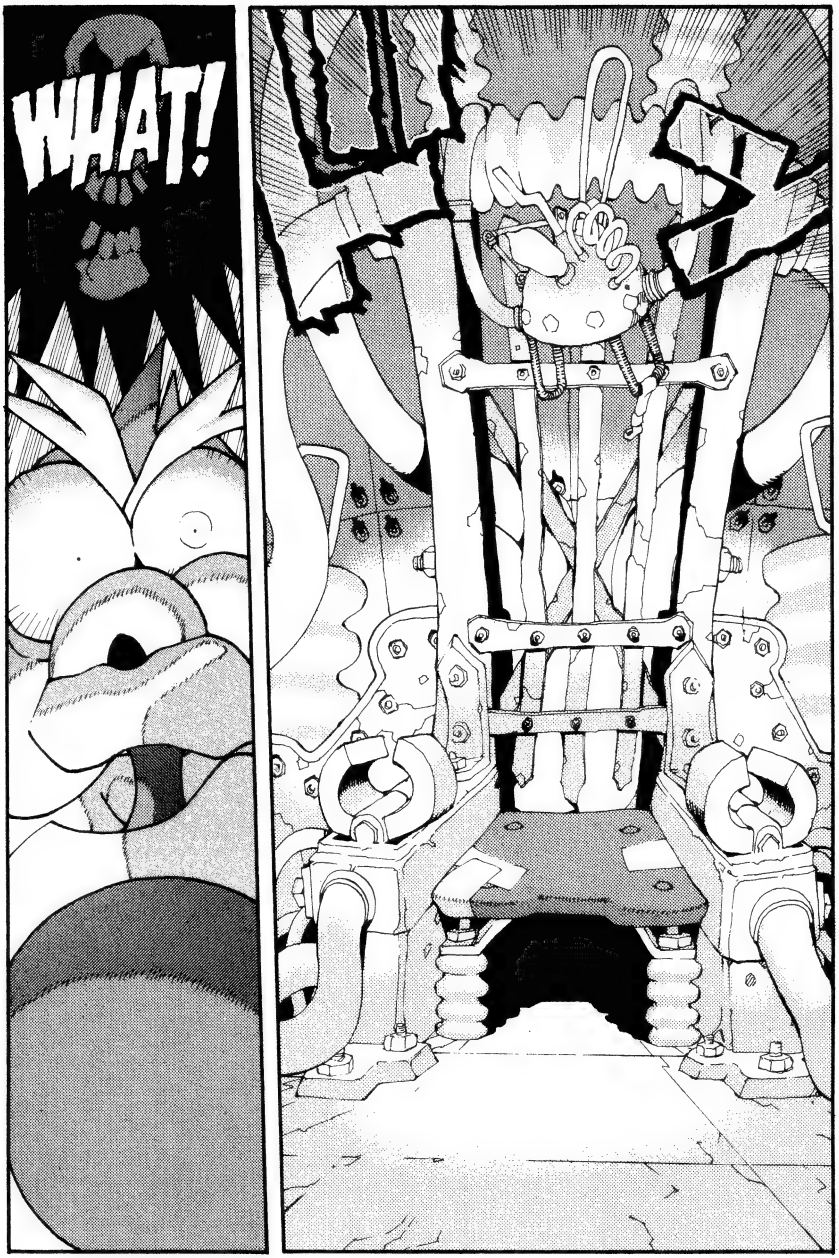
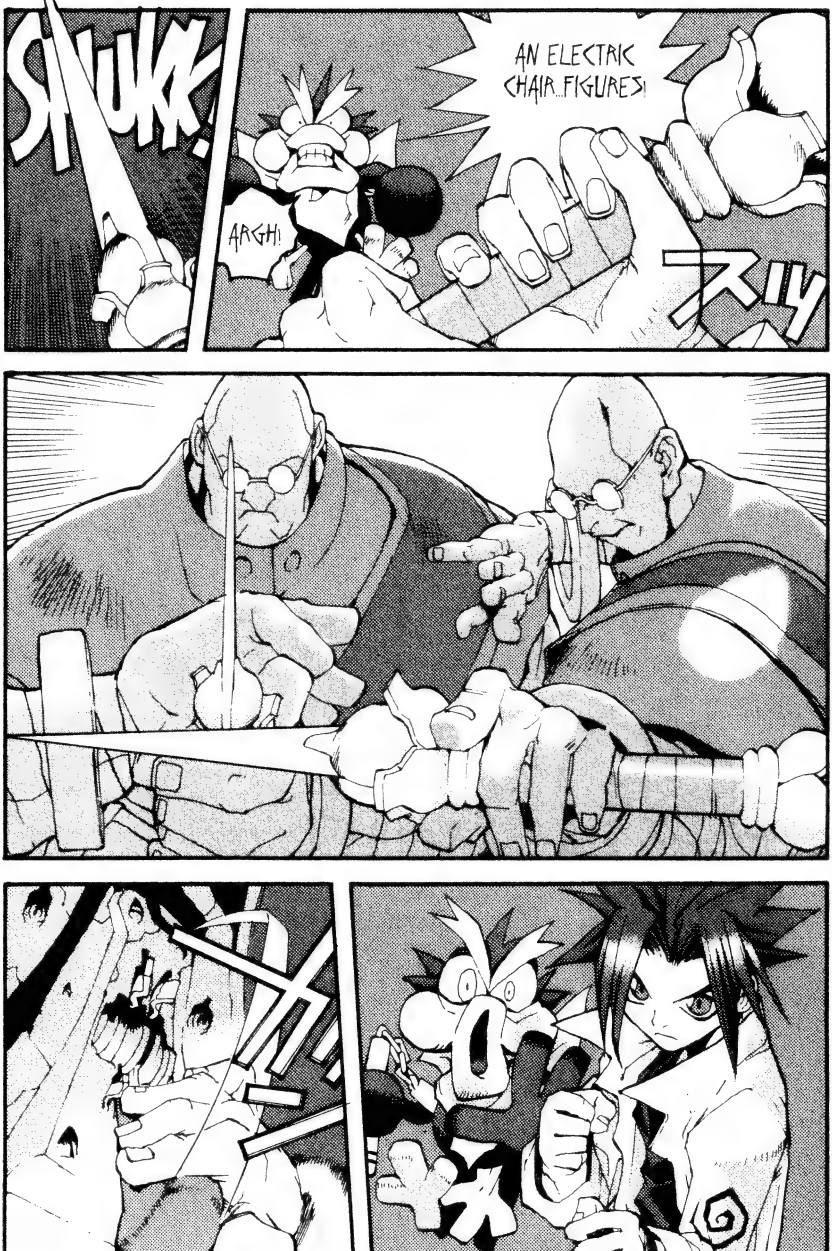
OH MY, WHAT UNIQUE EARS...
Can I touch them?


TCH...THE GIRLS' SIDE LOOKS LIKE A HAREM... PROBABLY IS ONE, KNOWING MY LUCK
G...GIRLS...
Mmmmm.
AS A COURTESY, WE HAVE PROVIDED A SPECIAL CHAIR, HANDMADE BY THE CAHIER SECT...WE HOPE IT WILL HELP YOU FEEL CLOSER TO HOME.
YOUR ROOM IS RIGHT IN HERE.
KAKONG
HEY... THANKS, GUY!
UH... KIR...


WHAT!


SHUKK
AN ELECTRIC CHAIR...FIGURES!
ARGH!
スッ

TWO POWERS DOMINATE SPACE:
LIGHT AND GRAVITY.
WHAT A BLISSFUL END!!
YOU, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN YOKED TO GRAVITY, SHALL FINALLY BE FREE...
...TO COMMUNE WITH MOTHER EARTH IN A LIGHT-FILLED DEATH!

HEY, KIR...Y-YOU GO AHEAD AND SIT DOWN FIRST!!
THAT'S OKAY-- WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR? C'MON, TAKE A LOAD OFF!!!
AFTER YOU, JING--I INSIST!!
NOOO, NOOO, I'M SURE YOU'RE MORE TIRED THAN I AM.
A porch is good enough for me.
NUOOOOO!
GUUUUUUH.

WHAT PUT THEM IN SUCH A FLUSTER?
WELL, NO THREAT TO US. ALTHOUGH WE REALLY SHOULD RETURN THEM TO THEIR SEAT...
WHAT?!!!
!!
TAKE THIS!
WHY YOU--!
NOW, DON'T BE BITTER, KIR...WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
GOTCHA!
ACKK!!
KIR...

...ROYALE!!!

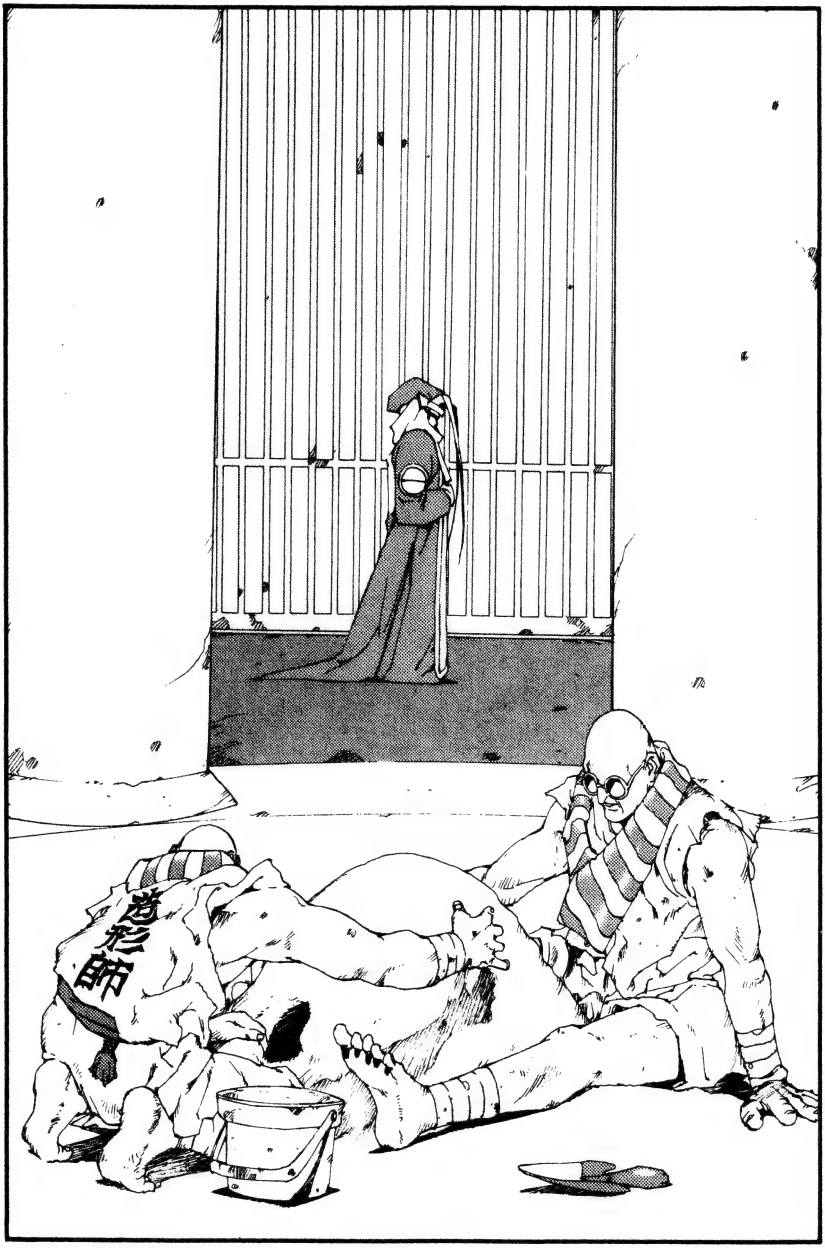
BRAVO
AND KIRSCHE WAS RIGHT... ABOUT THE LIGHTNING...
SO, JING--THESE ARE THE TACTICS OF WOULD-BE GODS?!
YEAH... LOOKS LIKE IT.
SEEMS THEY'RE FINDING PLENTY OF CREATIVE USES FOR IT!!

THE NIGHTTIME DEEPENS SILENTLY
AS DARKNESS CREEPS IN STEADILY
FROM AN UNKNOWN GARDEN IN THE SKY...

...IN A TOWN LIT ONLY DURING THE DAY...

...THE ELECTRICAL MISCHIEF OF GOD'S DEVICE
SHOWS NO SIGN OF ENDING SOON...

(EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF ARAK,
A BELIEVER OF THE CAHIER SECT)


造形師

PESCA LUMINOSA... HOW MAY I SERVE THEE?

AH, ARAK... YOU CAME.

TWO HEATHENS AND ONE BIRD, M'LORD!
Mwah-hah!
AND THE TWO HEATHENS...DID YOU CONDUCT THEM... TO THEIR RESTING PLACES?
YES... AS ALWAYS. BUT...
I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT... ALTHOUGH THIS PLACE HAS ALL THE APPEARANCE OF A CHARITY...
BUT... WHAT?!

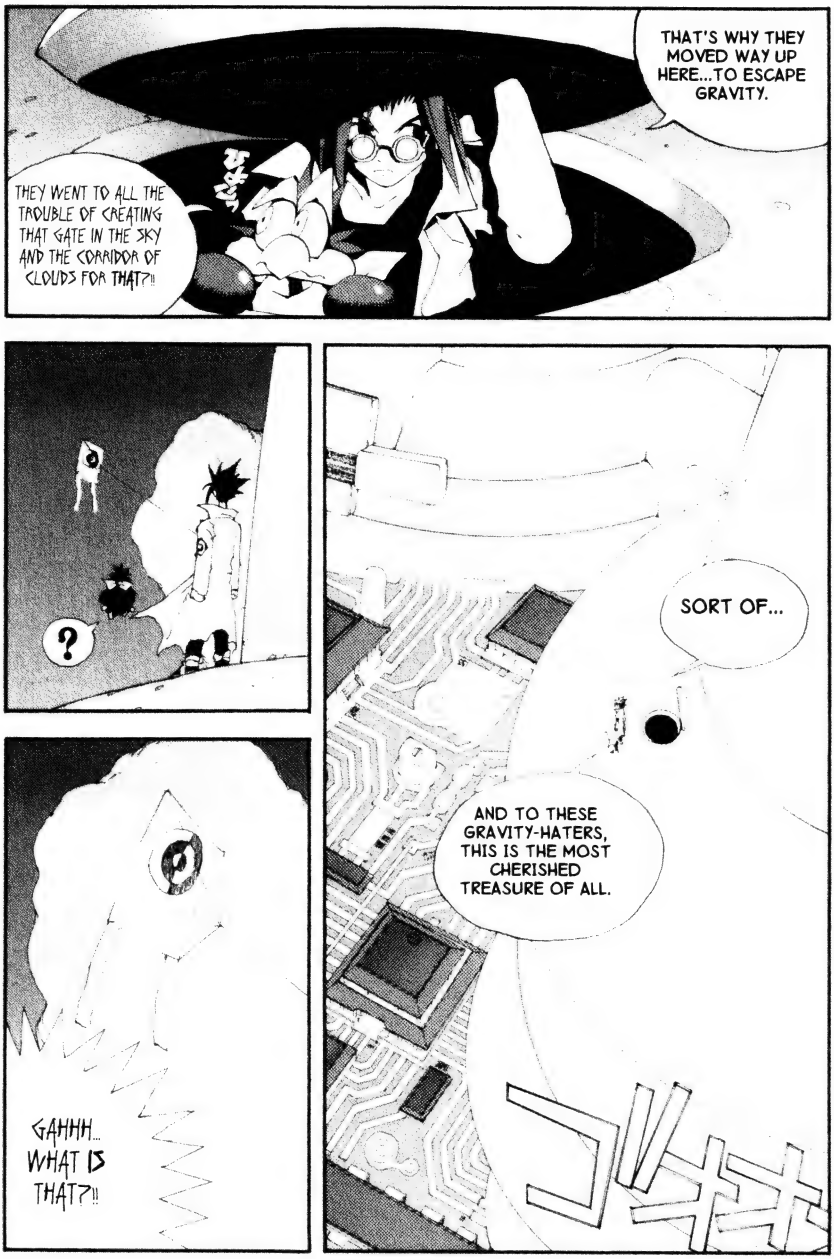
OH MY.
MURDER, YOU SAY...?
!
...IT SEEMS TO CHAMPION NOTHING MORE THAN THE MURDER OF COMMON PEOPLE...EVEN AS WE UNSELFISHLY DEVOTE OUR LIVES TO FAITH!! HOW COULD THAT BE CALLED--
THAT WORD... SOMEWHAT LACKING IN FAVOR, DON'T YOU THINK?
THOSE LOWER-EARTH INHABITANTS WERE FINALLY SET FREE FROM THE GRAVITY THAT TETHERED THEM...WHILE RECEIVING THE HEAVENLY BLESSING OF LIGHTNING! WE RETURNED THEM TO THEIR HOME, DON'T YOU SEE?
NATURALLY, MURDER IS NOT CHARITY...BUT THIS IS NOT COMMON MURDER. WE ARE HELPING THESE POOR PEOPLE RETURN TO THEIR BIRTHPLACE!

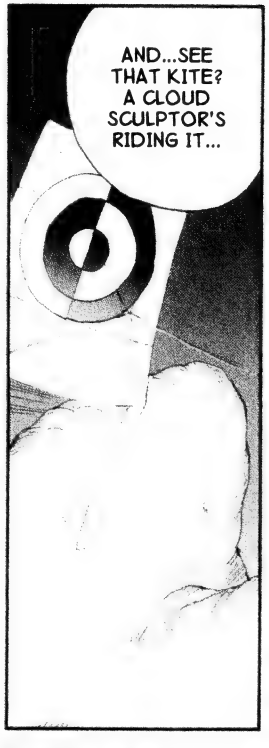
But such is our lot...even the sun looks down on the Celestial Sea!!
Some pain is only to be expected with such a procedure...
...but pain is nothing compared to the favor of light!!
In spite of all this, one of the heathens has refused our charity...and is currently roaming our temple.
STILL...

UMPH!
EVEN IF WE CANNOT ALWAYS CONDUCT OUR CHARITY AS WE WISH...WE SHOULD NEVER DOUBT IT!!
NOW, FIND THE ROGUE HEATHENS AT ONCE!!

...THE ROGUE HEATHENS...
BINGO!!
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO SMASH THAT LIGHTBULB OR WHAT?
Waking up to it hurt my eyes.
...WHY IS THERE...
...SO MUCH LIGHT HERE, ANYWAY?
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
TATATATA

BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BAD SIGN IF I, WHO AM NIGHT-BLIND, HAVE TO WEAR THESE THINGS?!
DDF
惡
WELL...IT APPEARS ELECTRICITY IS INFINITELY AVAILABLE HERE, CONSIDERING THIS PLACE HAS A DAM ON THE CELESTIAL SEA...
WELL, THEY MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT... MY EYES ARE DEVELOPING A REFLECTIVE COATING! SEE?
THEY ALSO CONSIDER GRAVITY THE GREATEST CORRUPTOR OF THE HUMAN RACE.
THESE GUYS WORSHIP LIGHT ABOVE ALL THINGS, KIR...SO IT STANDS TO REASON THEY'D WANT AS MUCH OF IT AS POSSIBLE!!


THAT'S WHY THEY MOVED WAY UP HERE...TO ESCAPE GRAVITY.
THEY WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF CREATING THAT GATE IN THE SKY AND THE CORRIDOR OF CLOUDS FOR THAT?!!
?
SORT OF...
AND TO THESE GRAVITY-HATERS, THIS IS THE MOST CHERISHED TREASURE OF ALL.
GAHHH... WHAT IS THAT?!!


AND...SEE THAT KITE? A CLOUD SCULPTOR'S RIDING IT...

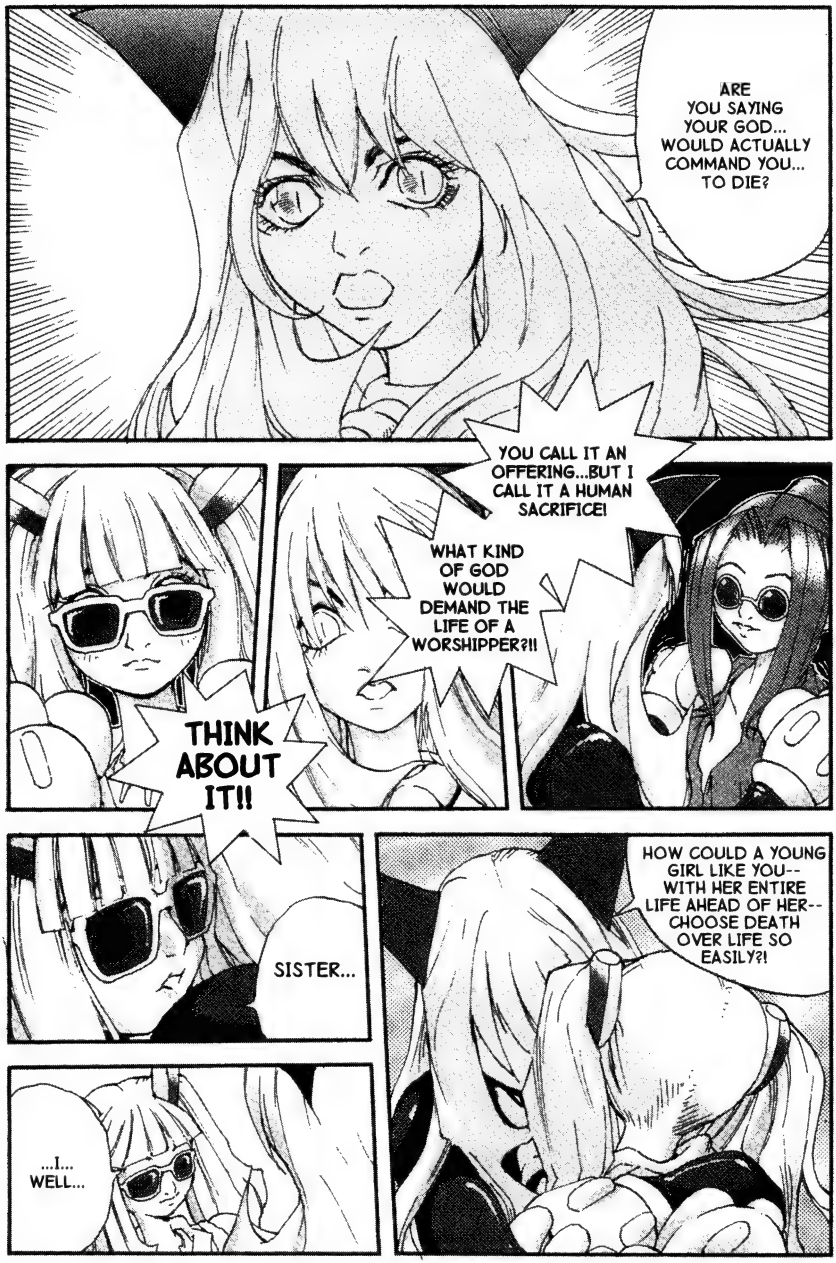
PESCA GIGANTESSA... A HUGE CLOUD SCULPTURE THAT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN BUILT ON THE CELESTIAL SEA.

SEE? HE'S STILL MOLDING IT, BIT BY BIT...

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, ARE YOU, JING?! THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE VAGUE FUZZY NAVEL LEGENDS RIGHT?!!!
JING...A-ARE YOU SAYING...THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA BE STEALING?!!
OH, KIRSCHE, KIRSCHE...WHO CARES ABOUT SILLY OLD...
HEY, KIR... ISN'T THAT KIRSCHE?
KIRSCHE?!
WHERE-- WHERE?!!

AMAZING! EVEN IF IT'S NEVER FINISHED...IT'LL TAKE A HUGE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY TO MAINTAIN...
AHHHH...PESCA GIGANTESSA. EVERY TIME I SEE IT, IT FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME!
I KNOW... I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS GONNA LIGHT UP AND BURST THROUGH MY CHEST!
EH?!
OH, UH...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!! DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE DONE SOON?
HEY...DON'T YOU THINK SO, SISTER KIRSCHE?

LOTS...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LOTS?
OH, YES...VERY SOON INDEED! AND WHEN IT IS, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WILL BE GATHERED TOGETHER, AND LOTS WILL BE DRAWN...
OH MY, SISTER...YOU ARE JOKING, AREN'T YOU?!
FOR US, SILLY!
OH.
YOU KNOW...TO DECIDE WHO WILL BE OFFERED TO THE GIGANTESSA!


ARE YOU SAYING YOUR GOD... WOULD ACTUALLY COMMAND YOU... TO DIE?
YOU CALL IT AN OFFERING...BUT I CALL IT A HUMAN SACRIFICE!
WHAT KIND OF GOD WOULD DEMAND THE LIFE OF A WORSHIPPER?!!
THINK ABOUT IT!!
SISTER...
...I... WELL...
HOW COULD A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU-- WITH HER ENTIRE LIFE AHEAD OF HER-- CHOOSE DEATH OVER LIFE SO EASILY?!

...I PLAN TO DIE... SO I CAN RETURN TO THE PLACE OF MY BIRTH. AS I WAS MEANT TO.
HERE, KITTY KITTY KITTY!!!
OH, KIIIRSSSCHE!

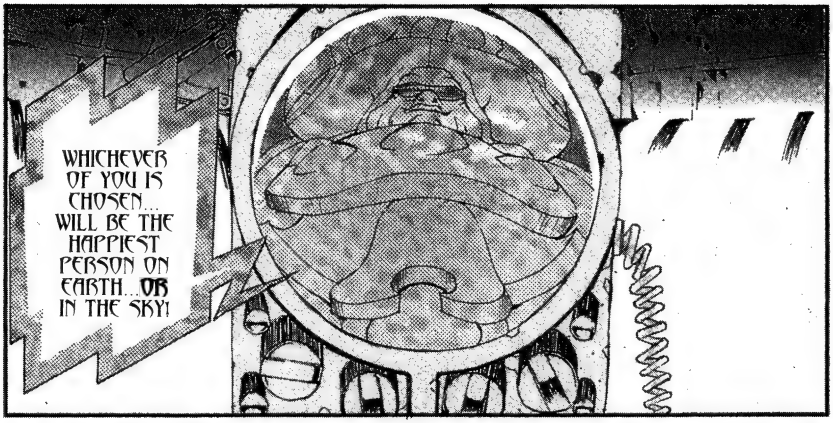
KYAHI
KYAHI
?
IT'S A HEATHEN!!!
A HEATHEN!!!
BY THE WAY... IS IT OKAY IF MY HENCHMAN SLEEPS ON THE COUCH?
MMMM...YES, I'VE REGRETTABLY LOST MY LODGINGS IN THE BOYS SECTION...
...BUT IF YOU CAN PUT ME UP AT YOUR PLACE, BY ALL MEANS!
KYAAAH!

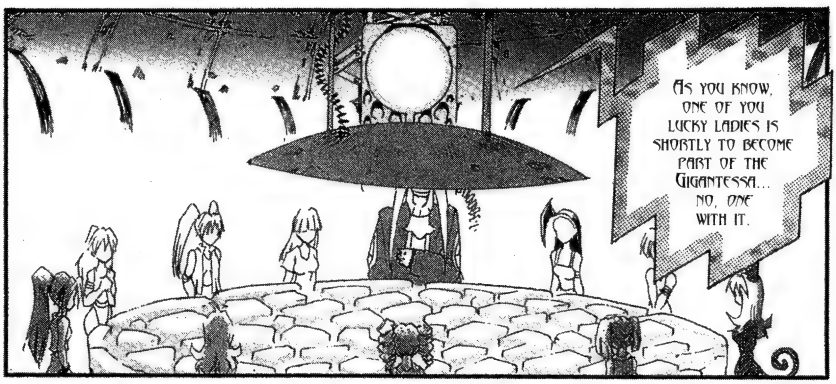
GURGLE...
I-I MEAN... BEAUTIFUL KITTY! HEAVENLY KIRSCHE!! ALMIGHTY GODDESS!!!
HMPH.

!!?
!!
HUH?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE CLOUD PRIEST SOLDIER!! LEAVE THAT TO THE HEATHEN.
Now...this way.
SISTER KIRSCHE!!
A-ALMIGHTY J-J-J-J-JING!
C'MON! GO IN!!
FOREBODING... FORMATIONS... INDEED...

JING!! THE CLOUDS...CLOUDS, THE CLOUDS!!
SHEESH, WHAT ARE YOU, A WEATHER-BIRD?
YO.
N-NO... MAKE THAT A STORM!! A RAGING ONE!!!

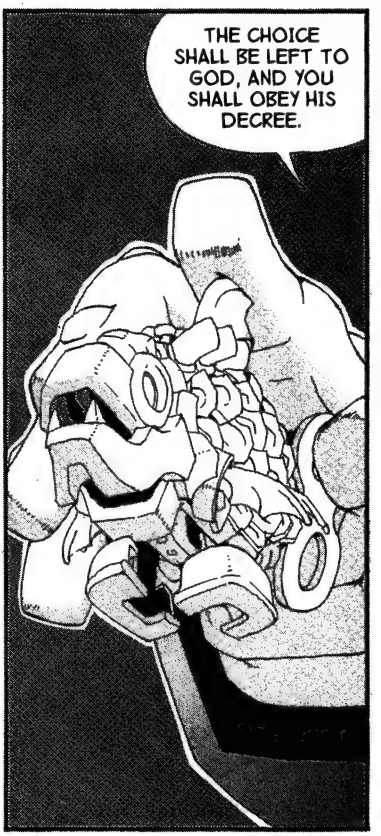
H-HEY... IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE, JIN! YOU'RE NOT GONNA DISAPPEAR... BEHIND THE CLOUDS... ARE YOU?
DON'T WORRY, KIR... I FORECAST A ZERO PERCENT CHANCE OF SURRENDER!!


WHICHEVER OF YOU IS CHOSEN... WILL BE THE HAPPIEST PERSON ON EARTH...OR IN THE SKY!


AS YOU KNOW, ONE OF YOU LUCKY LADIES IS SHORTLY TO BECOME PART OF THE GIGANTESSA... NO, ONE WITH IT.

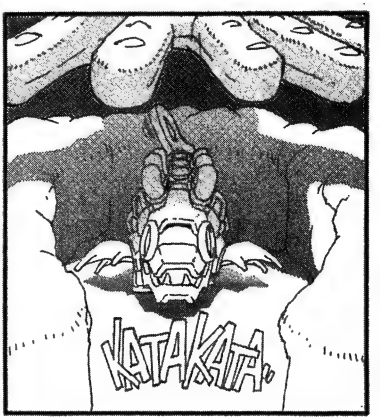
TO DECIDE WHICH OF YOU WILL BE APPOINTED THIS HONOR, WE SHALL NOW HOLD OUR RITUAL OF LOTS...
IF I DON'T SAVE EVERY-ONE FIRST!

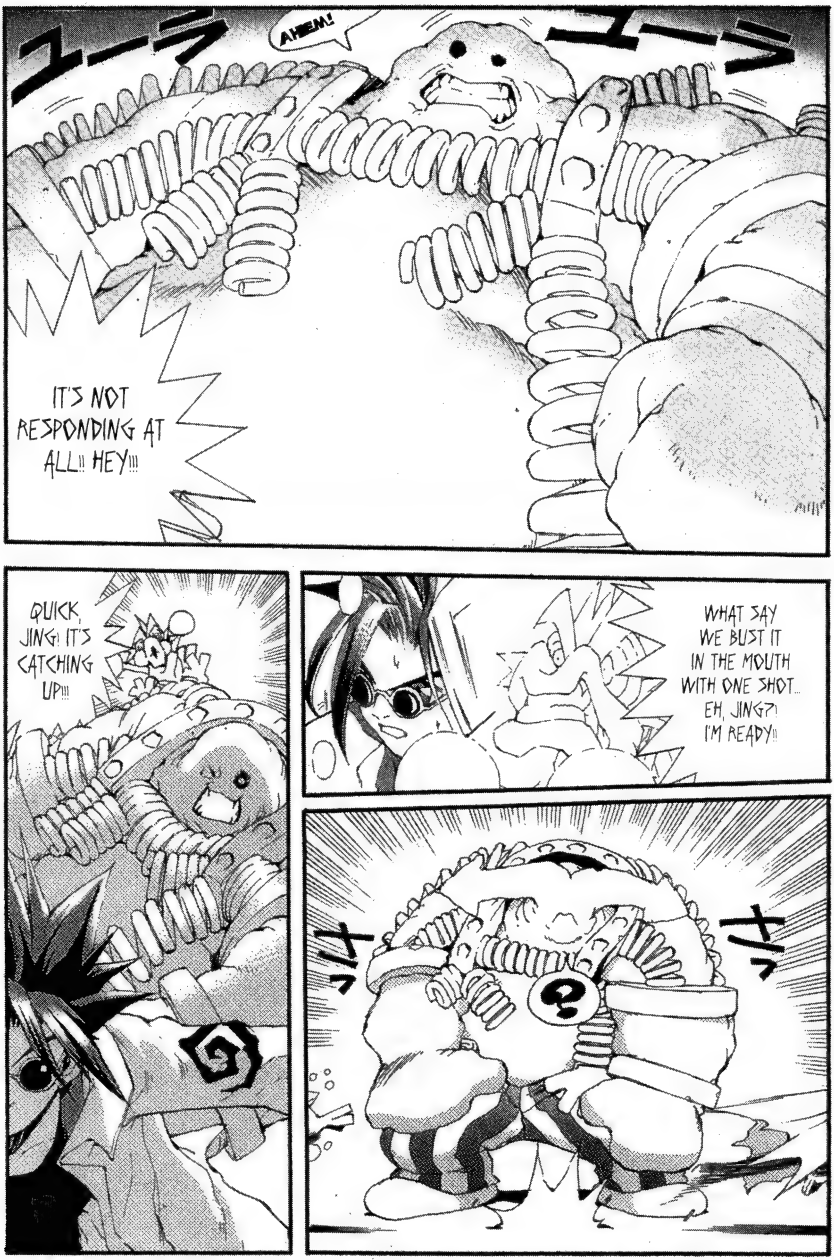
PLEASE, GOD...PICK ME...PICK ME...!
KATA


THE CHOICE SHALL BE LEFT TO GOD, AND YOU SHALL OBEY HIS DECREE.

GOD... FROM HEAD TO TOENAILS...THIS BODY WILL BE YOURS...!
KATA KATA

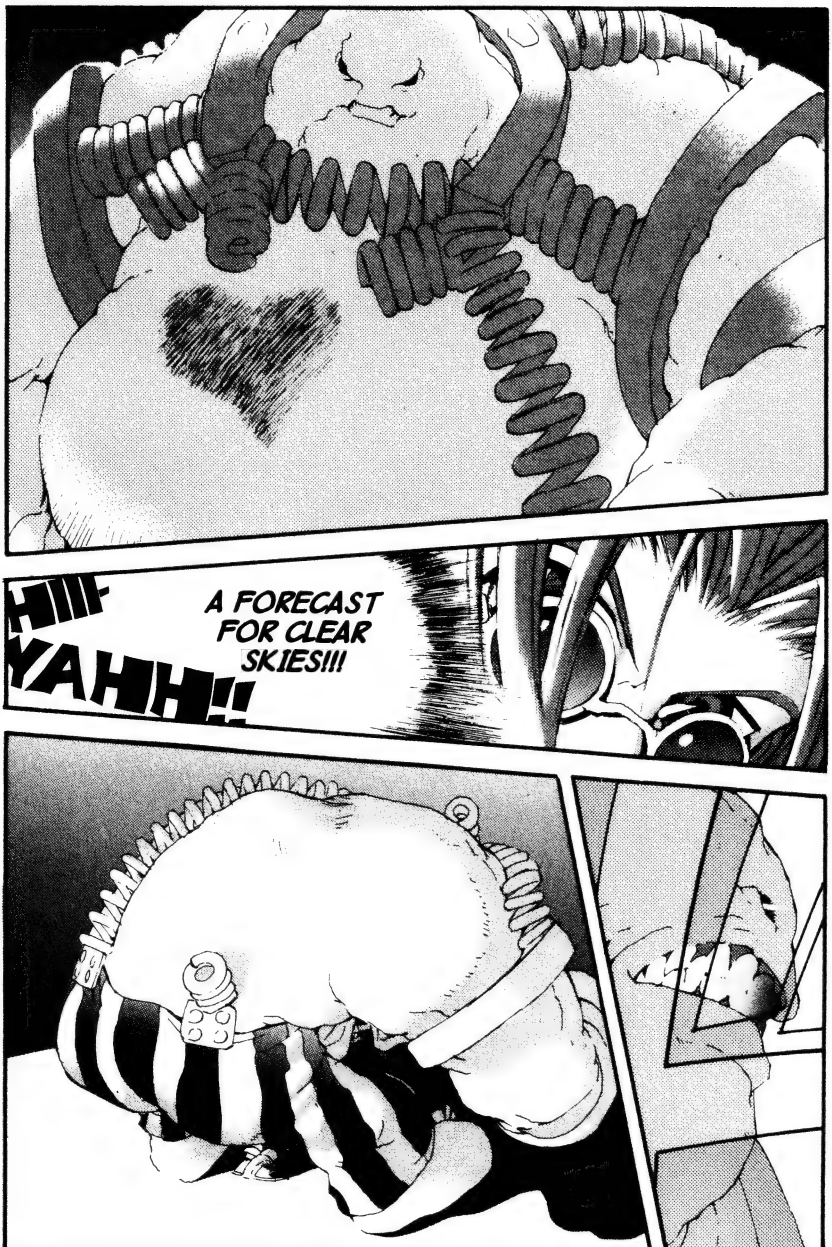
I WILL NOT LET EVEN ONE OF THESE GIRLS DIE... I SWEAR IT!
KATA


KATAKATA


ユーラ
AHEM!
ユーラ
IT'S NOT RESPONDING AT ALL!! HEY!!!
QUICK, JING! IT'S CATCHING UP!!!
WHAT SAY WE BUST IT IN THE MOUTH WITH ONE SHOT... EH, JING? I'M READY!!
ナ?
?
ナ?

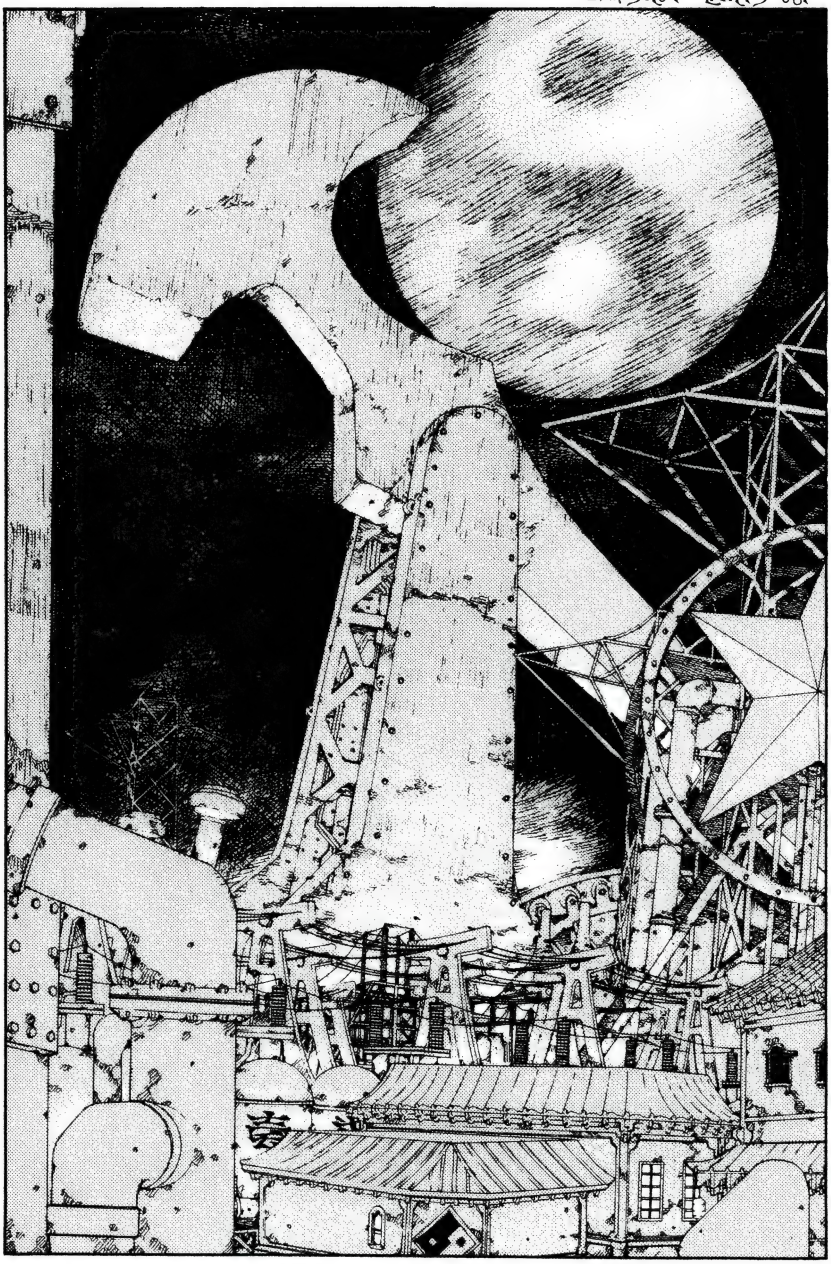
C'MONNNN, JING. WHAT ABOUT KIR ROYALE?!
SPROUTED ANOTHER HEAD PRETTY QUICKLY, DIDN'T IT?!

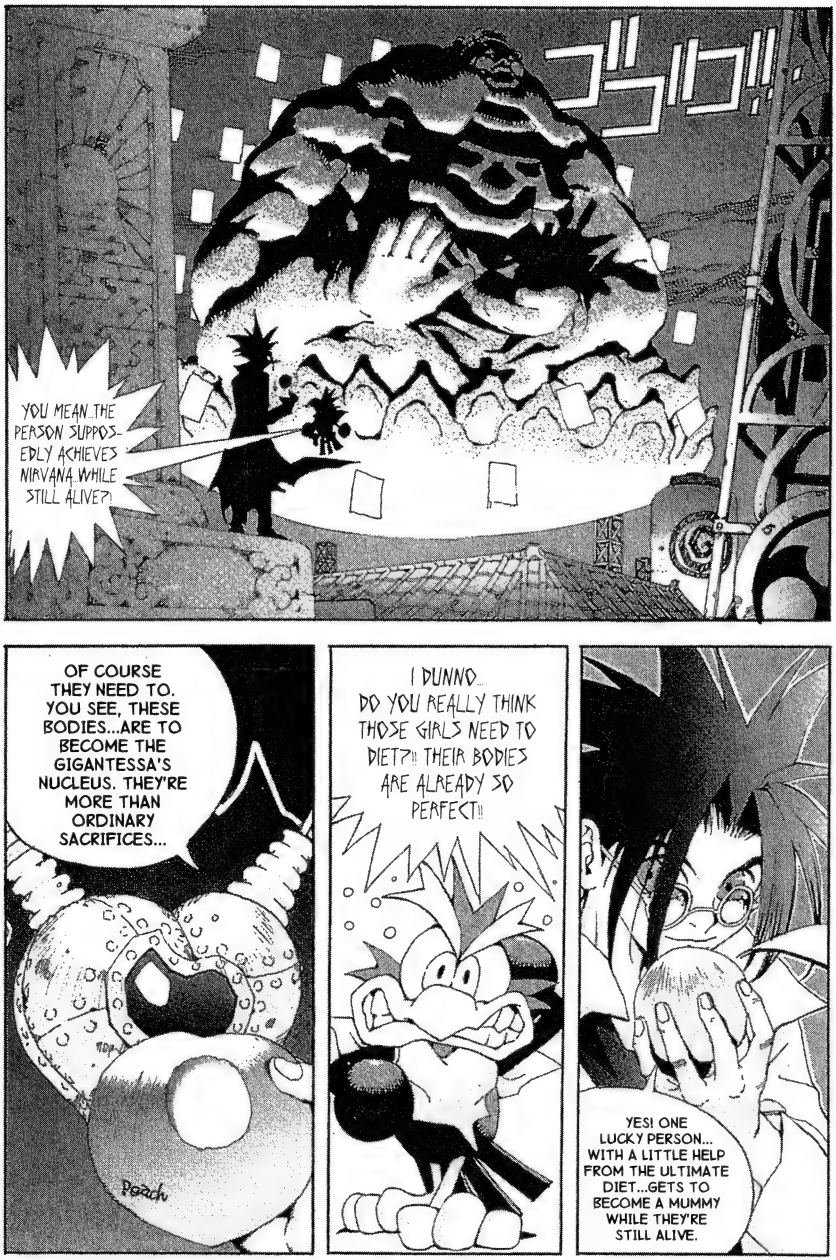
PATIENCE, KIR...PATIENCE...
E-E-ENOUGH ALREADY!! I'M COMBINING WITH YOU WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!!
I CAN ALMOST SEE IT... A RIFT... A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS!!

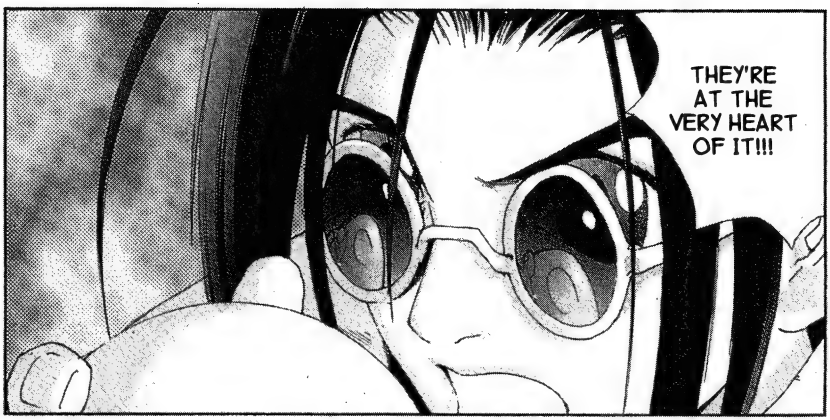

HIII-
YAHH!!
A FORECAST FOR CLEAR SKIES!!!

BOUN!
...IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT. THE COEUR-- THE HEART-- OF THE CLOUD SCULPTURE.
J-JING--W-W- WHAT IS THAT?!
THIS...
WELL... THE CLOUD SCULPTURE NEEDS A SACRIFICE TO BECOME COMPLETE.
Hey.
AND IF THIS ONE IS A KITTEN... THE ONE THE REAL PESCA GIGANTESSA NEEDS...
GACHAN!
AND... WHAT'S WITH THE CAT MUMMY?!

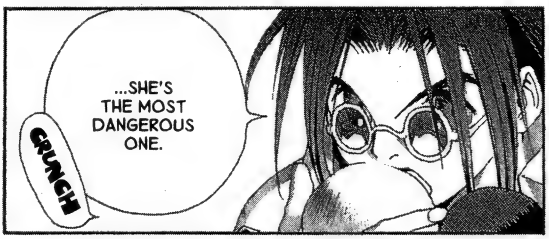
...WILL CERTAINLY BE A HUMAN!!
COME... THE FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
KAH KAH...
STOP!

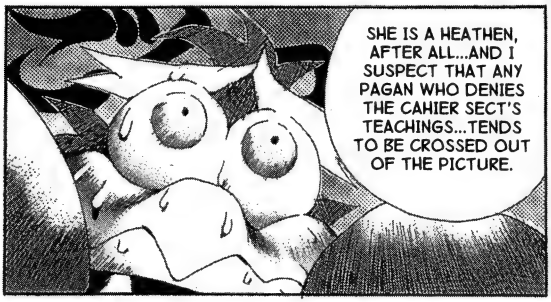



ゴゴゴゴ!!
YOU MEAN THE PERSON SUPPOSEDLY ACHIEVES NIRVANA WHILE STILL ALIVE?!
OF COURSE THEY NEED TO. YOU SEE, THESE BODIES...ARE TO BECOME THE GIGANTESSA'S NUCLEUS. THEY'RE MORE THAN ORDINARY SACRIFICES...
I DUNNO... DO YOU REALLY THINK THOSE GIRLS NEED TO DIET?!! THEIR BODIES ARE ALREADY SO PERFECT!!
YES! ONE LUCKY PERSON... WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE ULTIMATE DIET...GETS TO BECOME A MUMMY WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.


THEY'RE AT THE VERY HEART OF IT!!!

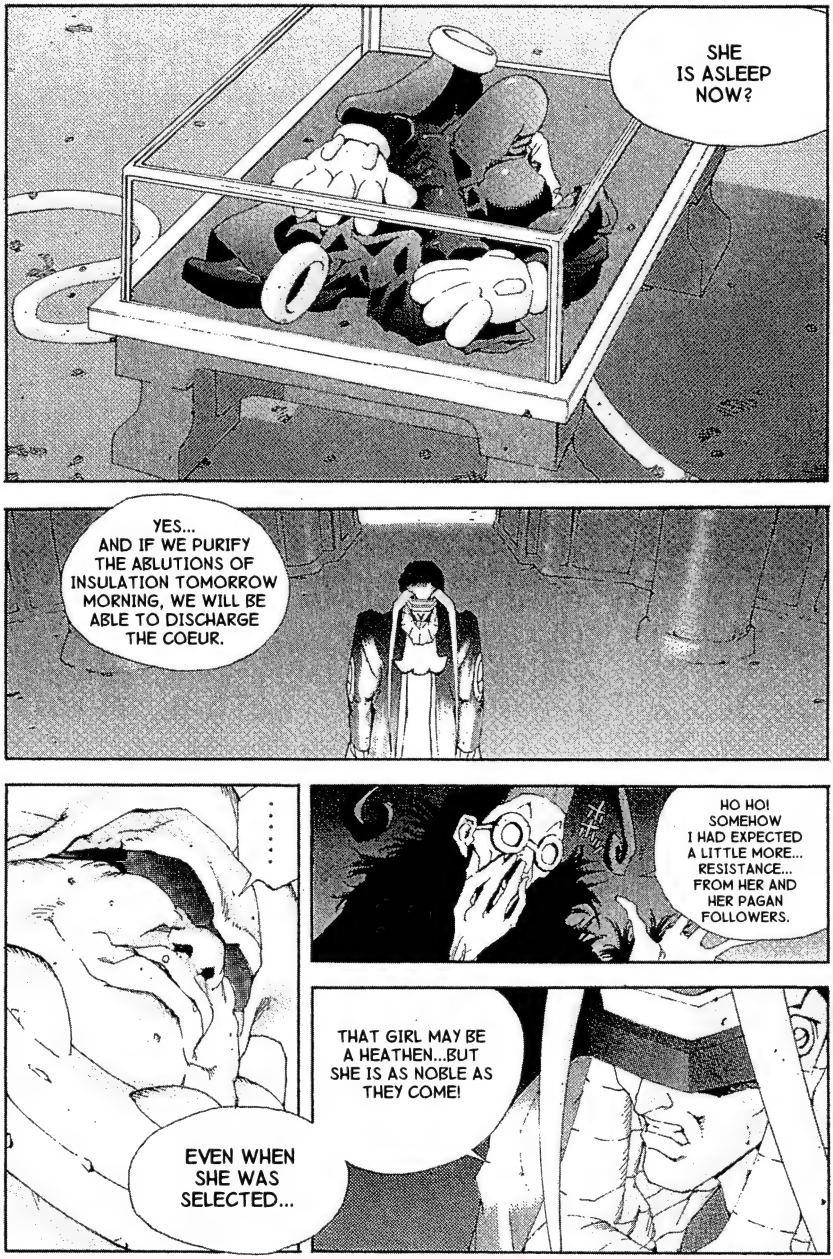
WHAT ABOUT KIRSCHE, JING?! YOU THINK THE KITTY MIGHT BE A SACRIFICE, TOO?
COULD BE ESPECIALLY CONSIDER-ING...


...SHE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE.
CRUNCH

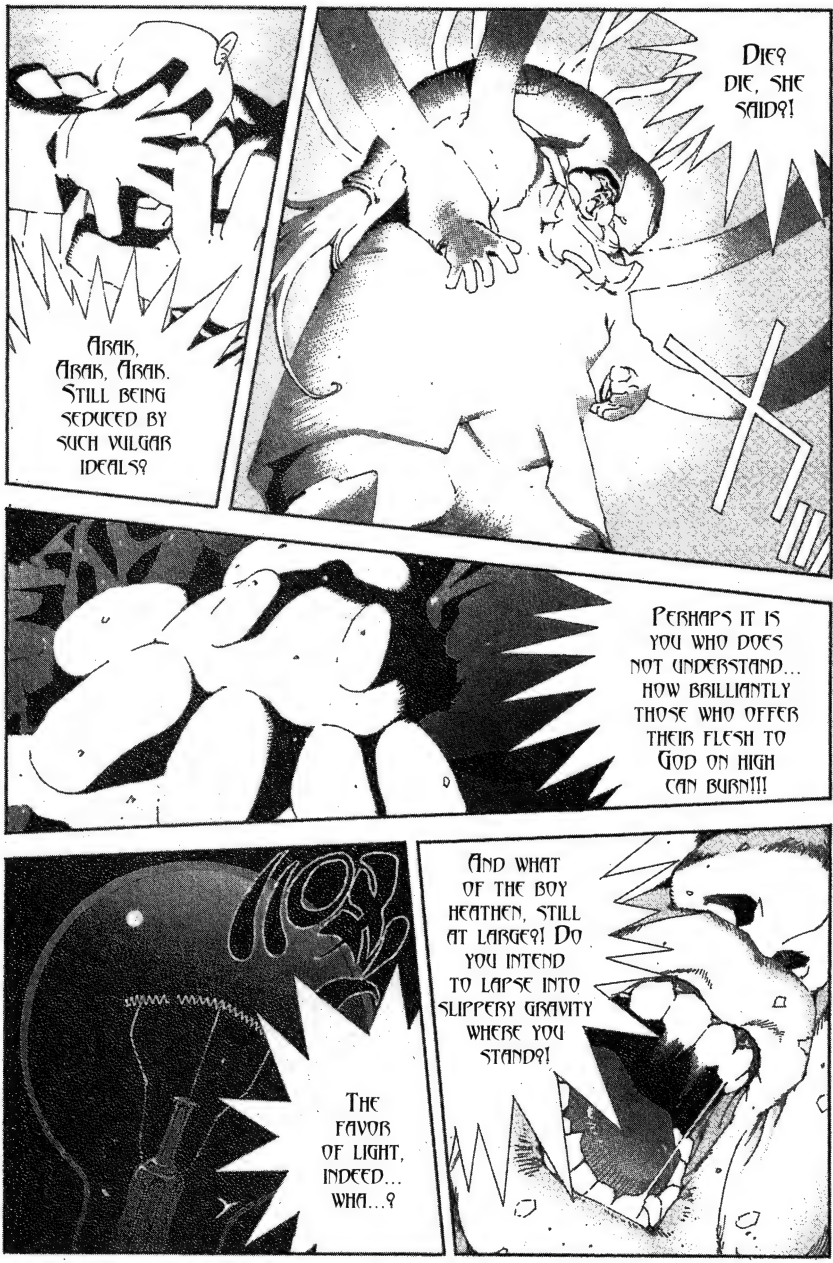

SHE IS A HEATHEN, AFTER ALL...AND I SUSPECT THAT ANY PAGAN WHO DENIES THE CAHIER SECT'S TEACHINGS...TENDS TO BE CROSSED OUT OF THE PICTURE.

NO...! I SIMPLY REFUSE TO BELIEVE GOD WOULD EVER RAISE A HAND TO A FEMALE!

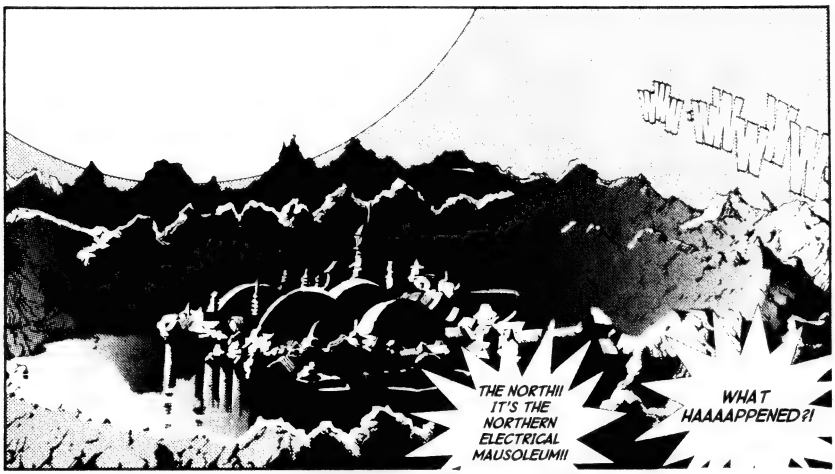
C'MON, KIR. LET'S GO CALL A LIGHTS OUT!!!
L-LIGHTS OUT? YOU'RE NOT GONNA SLEEP AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S GREAT, JING...BUT WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
Ga!

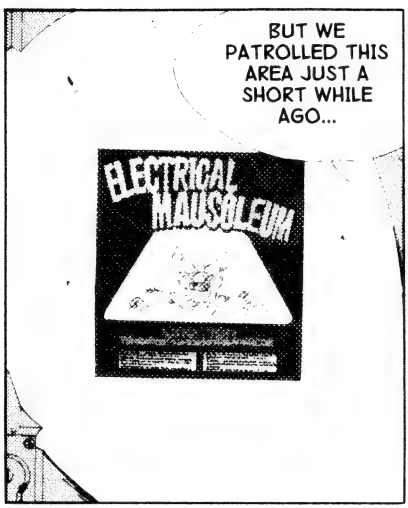

SHE IS ASLEEP NOW?
YES... AND IF WE PURIFY THE ABLUTIONS OF INSULATION TOMORROW MORNING, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DISCHARGE THE COEUR.
HO HO! SOMEHOW I HAD EXPECTED A LITTLE MORE... RESISTANCE... FROM HER AND HER PAGAN FOLLOWERS.
.....
THAT GIRL MAY BE A HEATHEN...BUT SHE IS AS NOBLE AS THEY COME!
EVEN WHEN SHE WAS SELECTED...

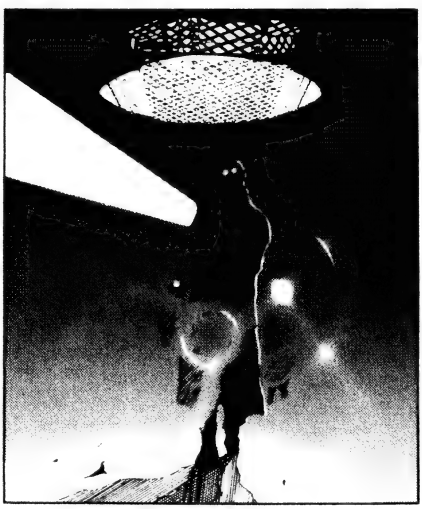
AND SO, SHE FACED THE GIRLS...
...BUT AT LEAST I CAN SAVE THEIR LIVES WITH MY OWN.
I CAN'T SAVE ALL OF US...
...SHE RECEIVED THE ORACLE BY SAYING...
...AND TOLD THEM...THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIE.

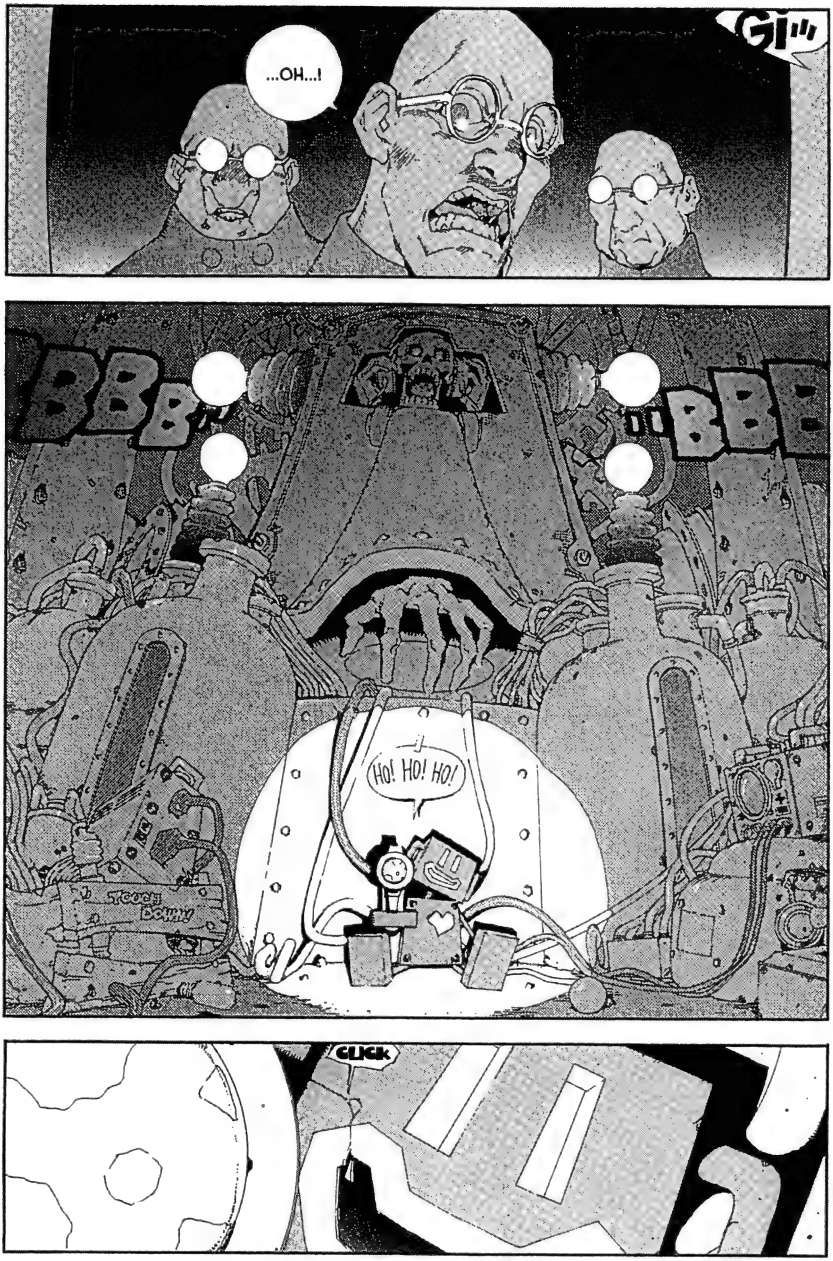

ARAK, ARAK, ARAK. STILL BEING SEDUCED BY SUCH VULGAR IDEALS?
DIE? DIE, SHE SAID?!
PERHAPS IT IS YOU WHO DOES NOT UNDERSTAND... HOW BRILLIANTLY THOSE WHO OFFER THEIR FLESH TO GOD ON HIGH CAN BURN!!!
AND WHAT OF THE BOY HEATHEN, STILL AT LARGE?! DO YOU INTEND TO LAPSE INTO SLIPPERY GRAVITY WHERE YOU STAND?!
THE FAVOR OF LIGHT, INDEED... WHA...?

WHAT?!!


THE NORTH!! IT'S THE NORTHERN ELECTRICAL MAUSOLEUM!!!
WHAT HAAAAPPENED?!


BUT WE PATROLLED THIS AREA JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO...
ELECTRICAL MAUSOLEUM




...OH...!
GI
BBB
BBB
HO! HO! HO!
CLICK

Ooooooh!!!
God...!
ZAKK

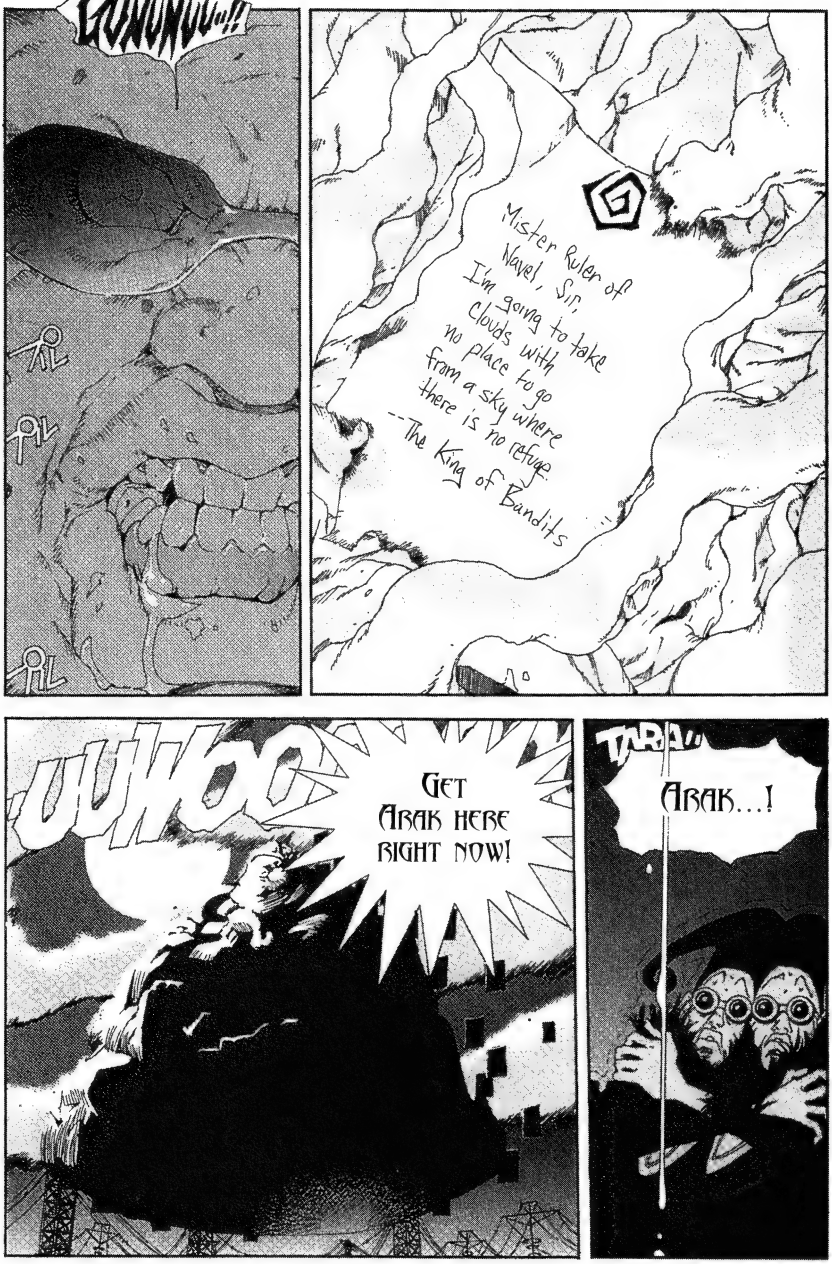
FOOOOOM!

...PLEASE, CALM DOWN.
HUSH...
THE LIGHT!!!! OH, GOD!!
OH...AH... THE LIGHT...
ZZZKT
ZZZKT
!?
WHO ...?!
FEAR NOT! ALL WILL SOON BE RESTORED TO NORMAL!!

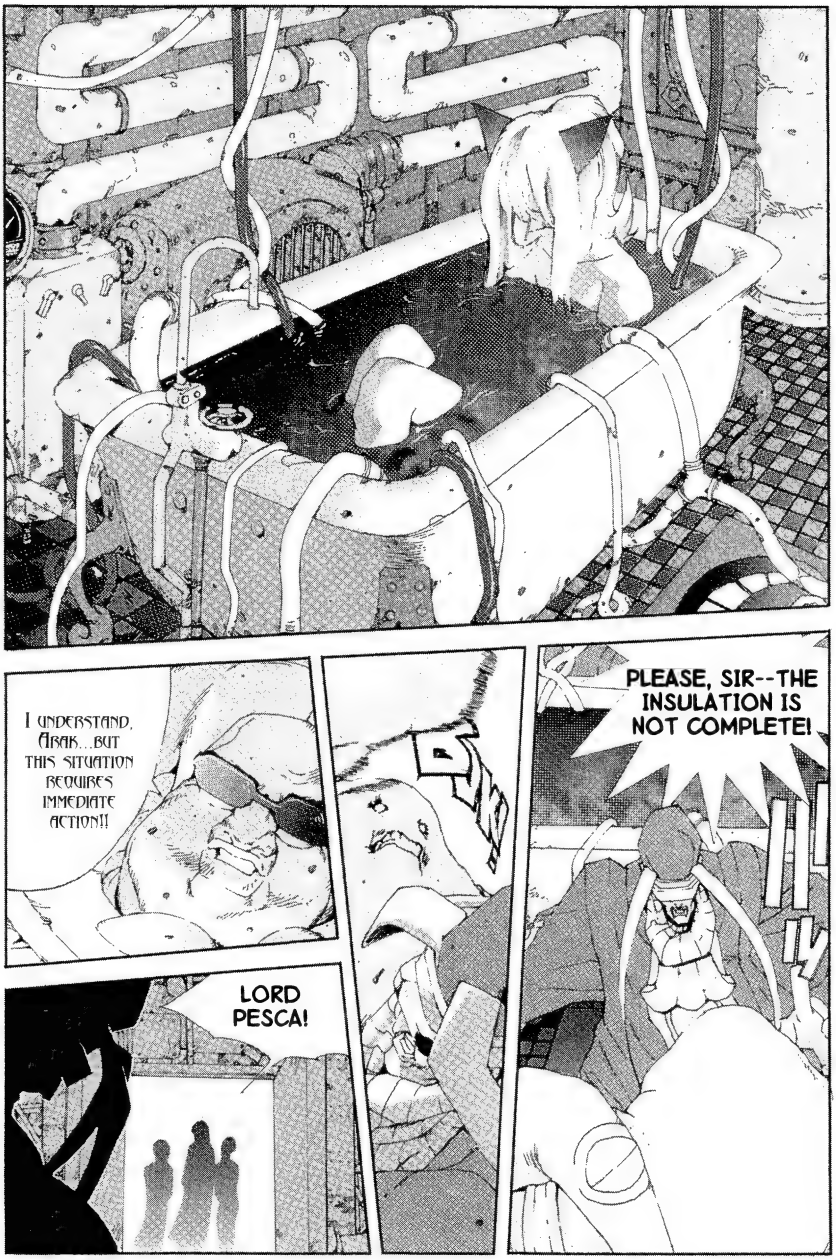
ZKK
ARAK? NO! IT ISN'T ARAK... IS IT?!
...WHO IS THAT... OVER THERE...?
WHO...
TAKA?
HH
CAUTION
EASY... EASY NOW...
KKK
KKK
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

LOOKS LIKE THE CHILDREN ARE SCARED, OLD MAN!
QUIT
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
DOOOOONT TURN OFF THE LIIIIGHTS, MAMAAAA...
WHAA!
WHAA!
MAMAAAAA... NOOOOOO!

FLAP!
FLAP!
ZKK!
FLAP
AND WHAT... IS THAT...ON THE BACK...?
PASH
HE'S...HE'S GONE?!


GUNUNUU...!!
Mister Ruler of Navel, Sir,
I'm going to take Clouds with no place to go from a sky where there is no refuge.
--The King of Bandits
UUKOO
GET ARAK HERE RIGHT NOW!
TARA...
ARAK...!

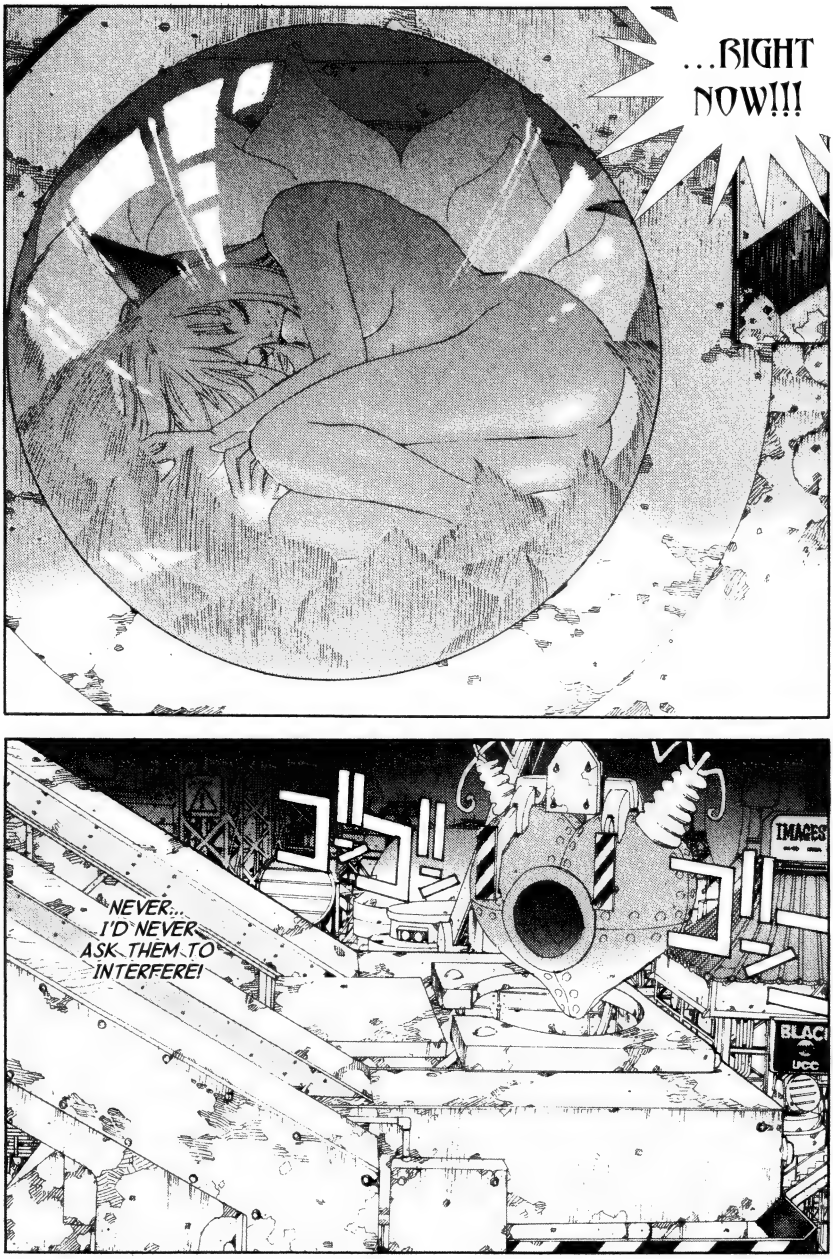
PESCA, SIR-- YOU MUST NOT DO IT!!!
IF YOU THROW THE COEUR INTO THE GIGANTESSA WITHOUT THE ABLUTIONS OF INSULATION...
...THAT GIRL WILL BE INSTANTLY CHARRED TO A CRISP!!
THOSE CLOUDS HAVE SIX MILLION VOLTS IN THEM! IT WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN--
--A COMMON EXECUTION!!!

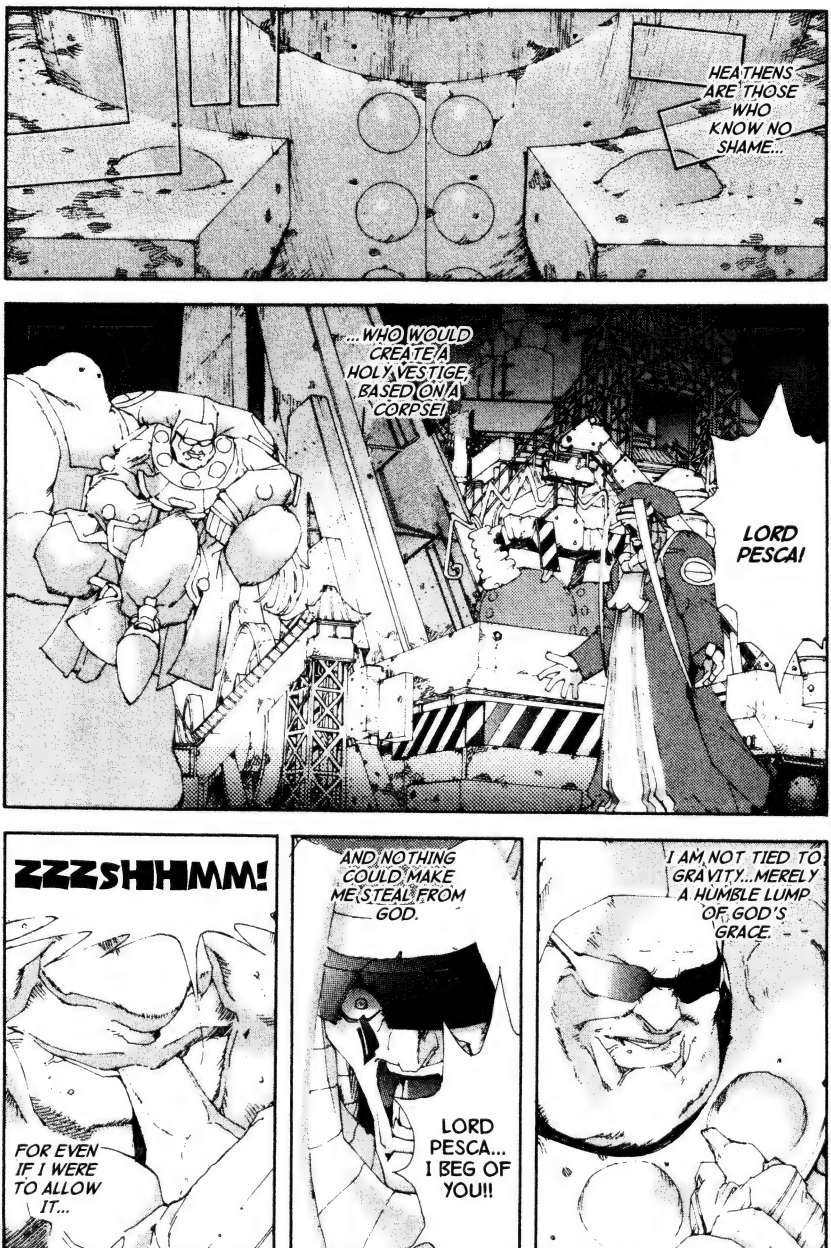

I UNDERSTAND, ARAK...BUT THIS SITUATION REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION!!
PLEASE, SIR--THE INSULATION IS NOT COMPLETE!
LORD PESCA!

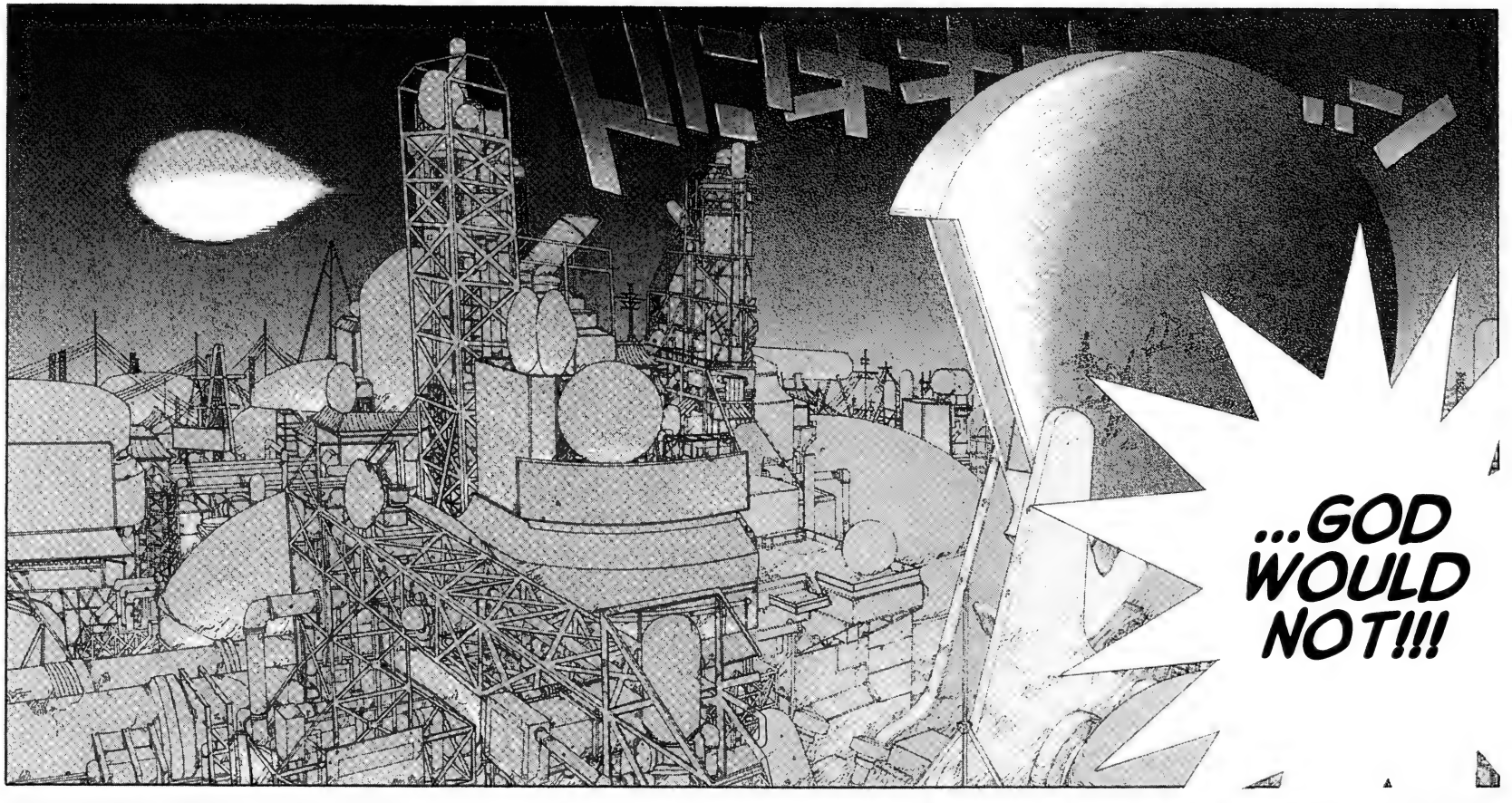
AH... CAME TO SEE THE SHOW WITH YOUR OWN EYES, DID YOU?
PLEASE... HAVE MERCY!! SHOW SOME MERCY!!
WITHOUT THE ABLUTIONS...IT WOULD BE...
LORD PESCA...IS IT NOT TOO EARLY?!
THERE'S BEEN A LITTLE CHANGE OF PLANS, GIRLS. IT SEEMS WE HAVE A HEATHEN LOOSE ON THE PREMISES... ONE WHO GLORIFIES STEALING OVER GOD!
AND IT TURNS OUT THIS GIRL IS ANOTHER STRAY AMONG OUR FOLD... ONE WHO SIMILARLY GLORIFIES STEALING...
IN LIGHT OF THIS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLETE THE PESCA GIGANTESSA NOW... BEFORE FURTHER COMPLICATIONS ARISE!

I SEE... IT SEEMS WE HAVE MORE HERETICS HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON BLAMING ME...
NEVER...!!
WHAT?!!
...IN FACT, SHE IS NONE OTHER THAN THE LEADER OF THE STRAY CATS!!!
BUT...THAT CAN'T BE. SISTER IS A WONDERFUL LADY...!
...AT LEAST IT SHOULD BE FOR THE CEREMONY'S PROPER COMPLETION!!!
HIUM
HIUM
SPEAKERS
SPEAKERS

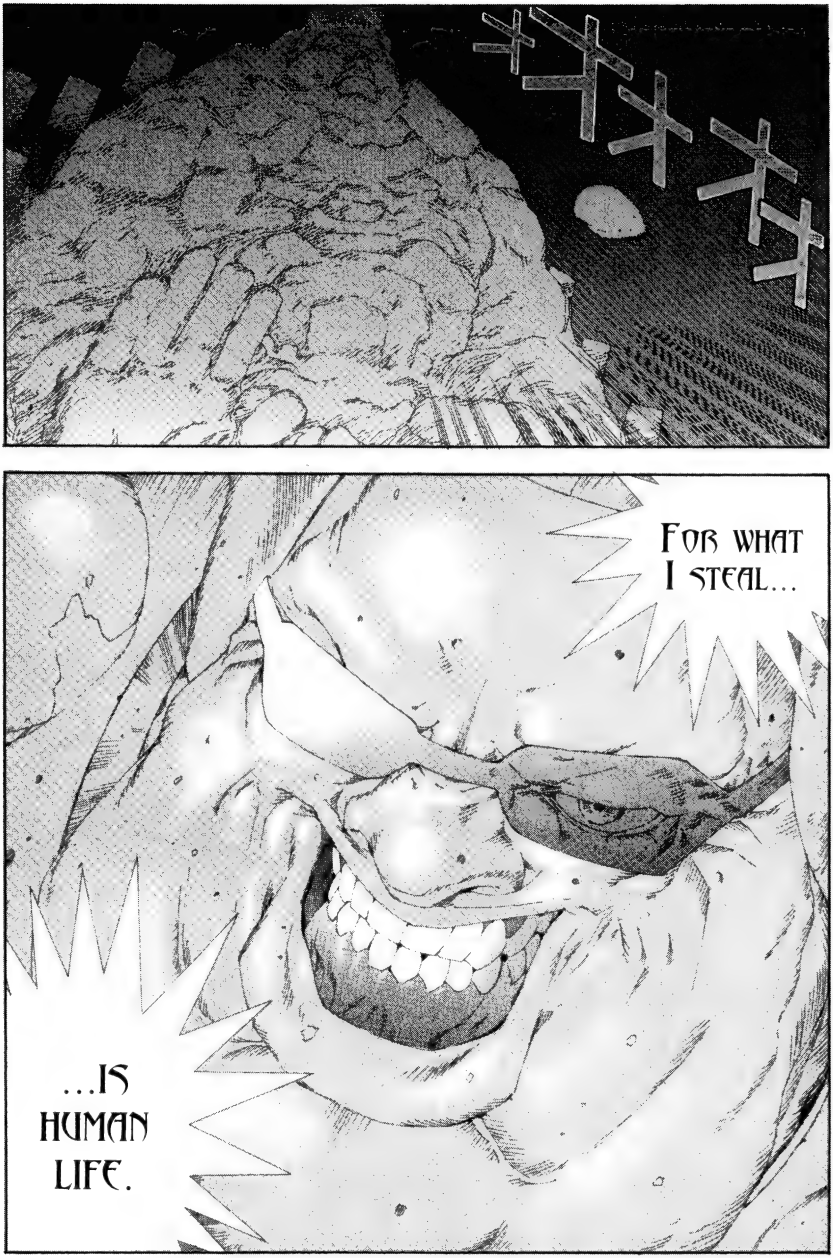
KYAAAAAAAAAH!!!
BECAUSE THE CEREMONY IS GOING TO BEGIN...
NOW...DO THE INEXPERIENCED BELIEVERS, WHO WERE NOT CHOSEN BY GOD, HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?
Meditate quickly.


...RIGHT NOW!!!
NEVER... I'D NEVER ASK THEM TO INTERFERE!
IMAGES


HEATHENS ARE THOSE WHO KNOW NO SHAME...
...WHO WOULD CREATE A HOLY VESTIGE, BASED ON A CORPSE!
LORD PESCA!
ZZZSHHMM!
FOR EVEN IF I WERE TO ALLOW IT...
AND NOTHING COULD MAKE ME STEAL FROM GOD.
LORD PESCA... I BEG OF YOU!!
I AM NOT TIED TO GRAVITY...MERELY A HUMBLE LUMP OF GOD'S GRACE.

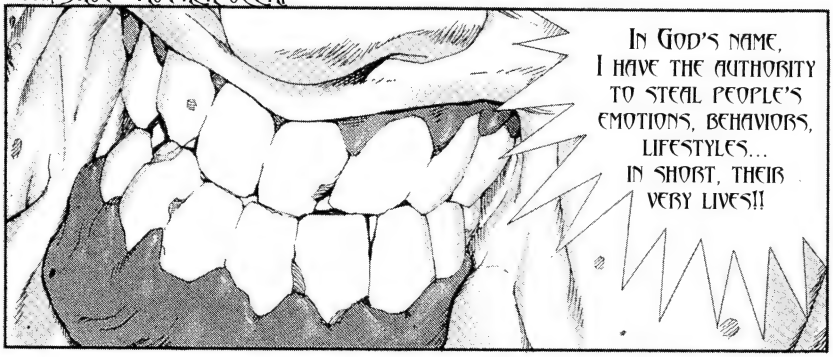

...GOD WOULD NOT!!!

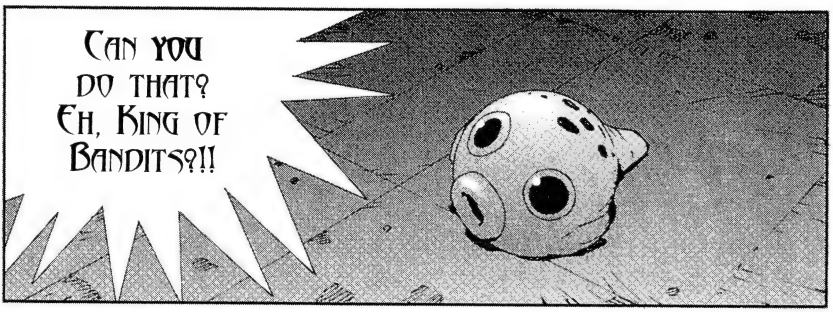
O KING OF BANDITS...WHATEVER OUTRAGEOUS ARTIFACTS YOU MAY STEAL...IN THE END, YOU WILL ANSWER TO GOD...ME.

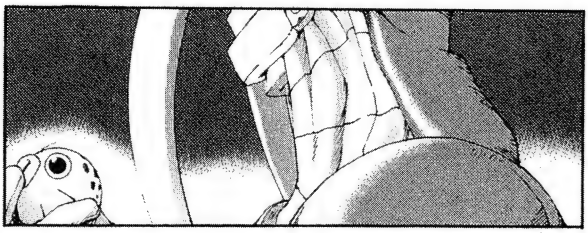

FOR WHAT I STEAL...
...IS HUMAN LIFE.

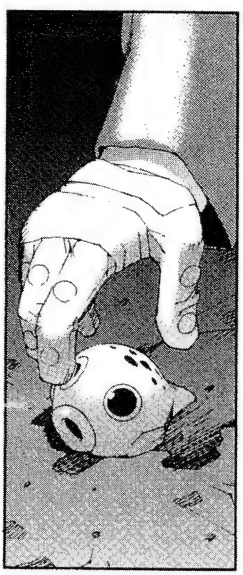
swing low,sweet chariot
comin'for to carry me home
I looked over Jordan and what
did I see
comin'for to carry me home
a band of angels comin'after me
comin'for to carry me home
oh,if you get there before I do
comin'for to carry me home
tell all my friends I'm comin'too
comin'for to carry me home

swing low, sweet chariot
comin' for to
carry me home
(An American Negro spiritual)


IN GOD'S NAME, I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO STEAL PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS, BEHAVIORS, LIFESTYLES... IN SHORT, THEIR VERY LIVES!!

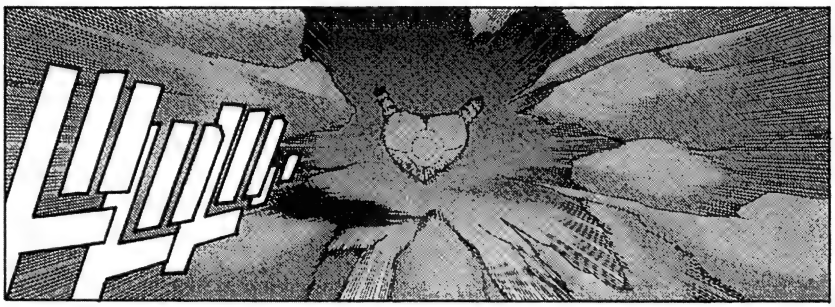

CAN YOU DO THAT? EH, KING OF BANDITS?!!

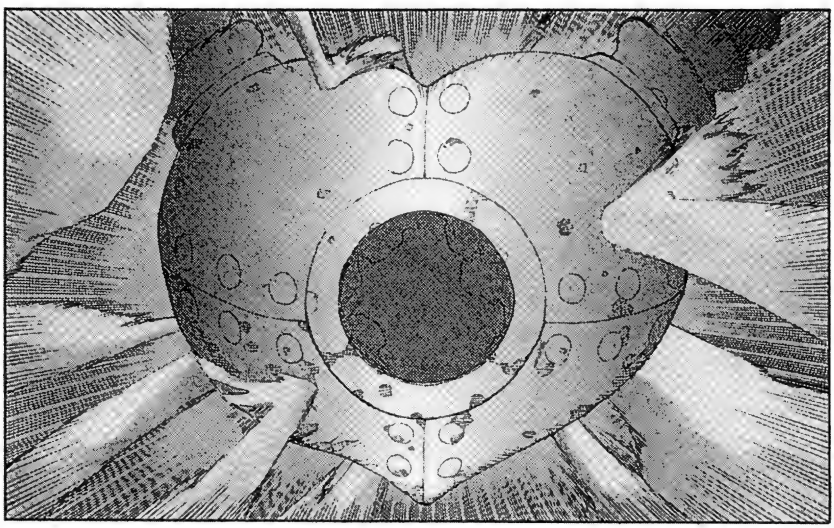




A BIT MUCH FOR A KID LIKE YOU, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?!

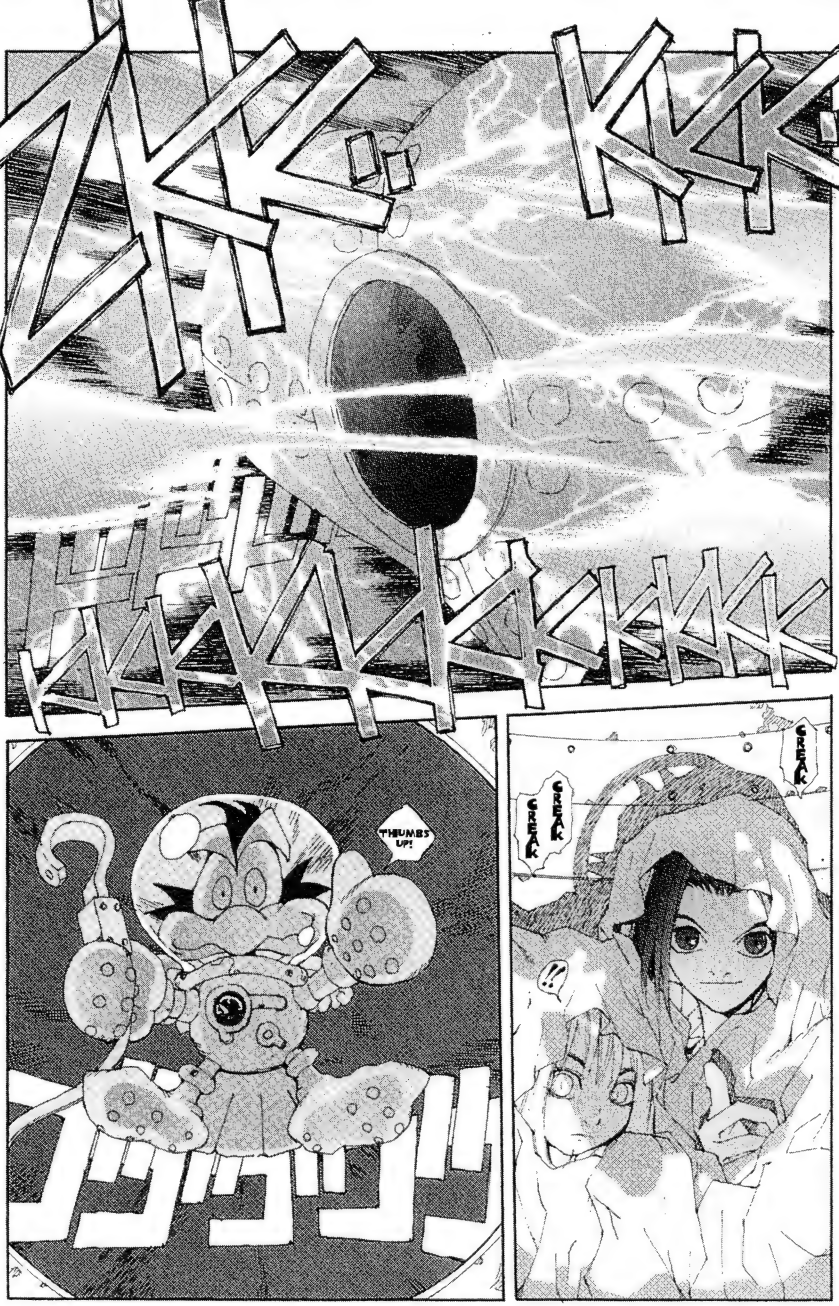
HA
HA
HA!
.....!!

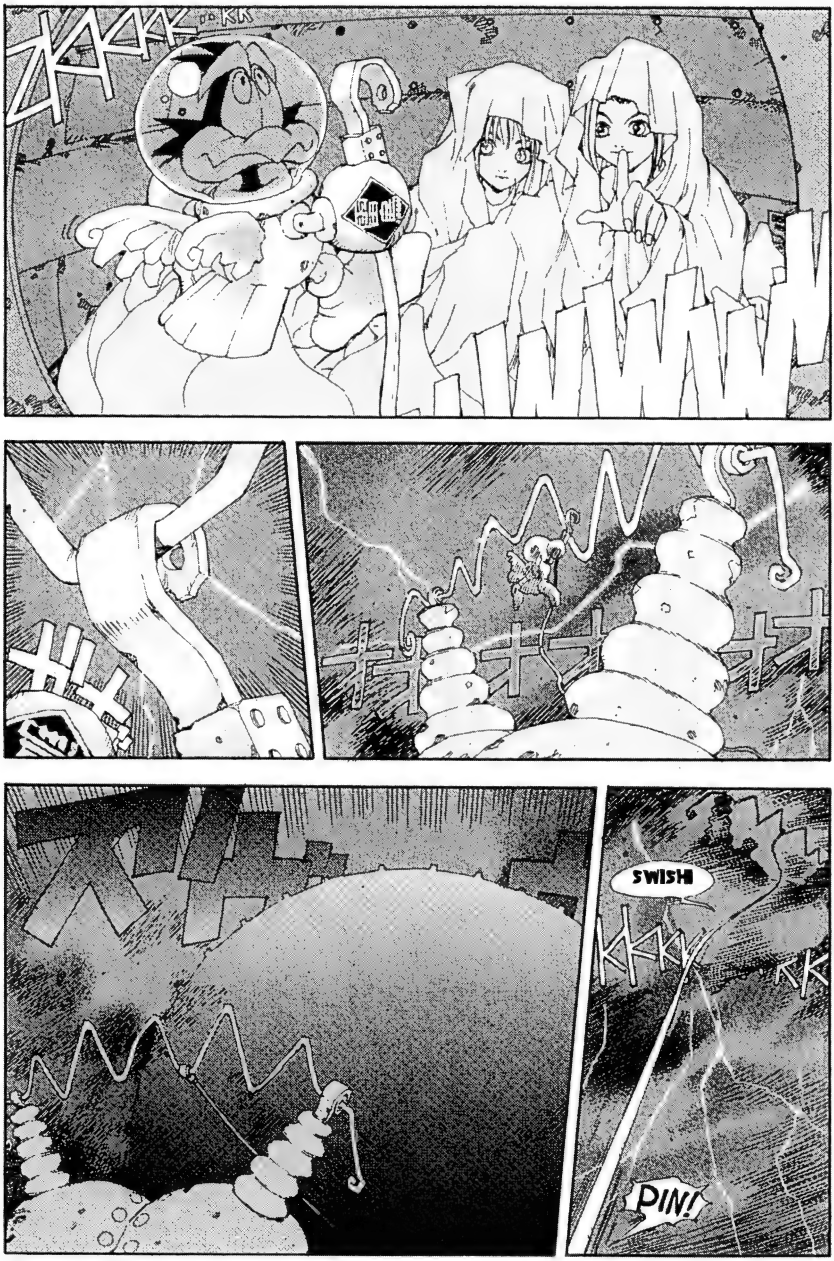

Ш Ш Ш

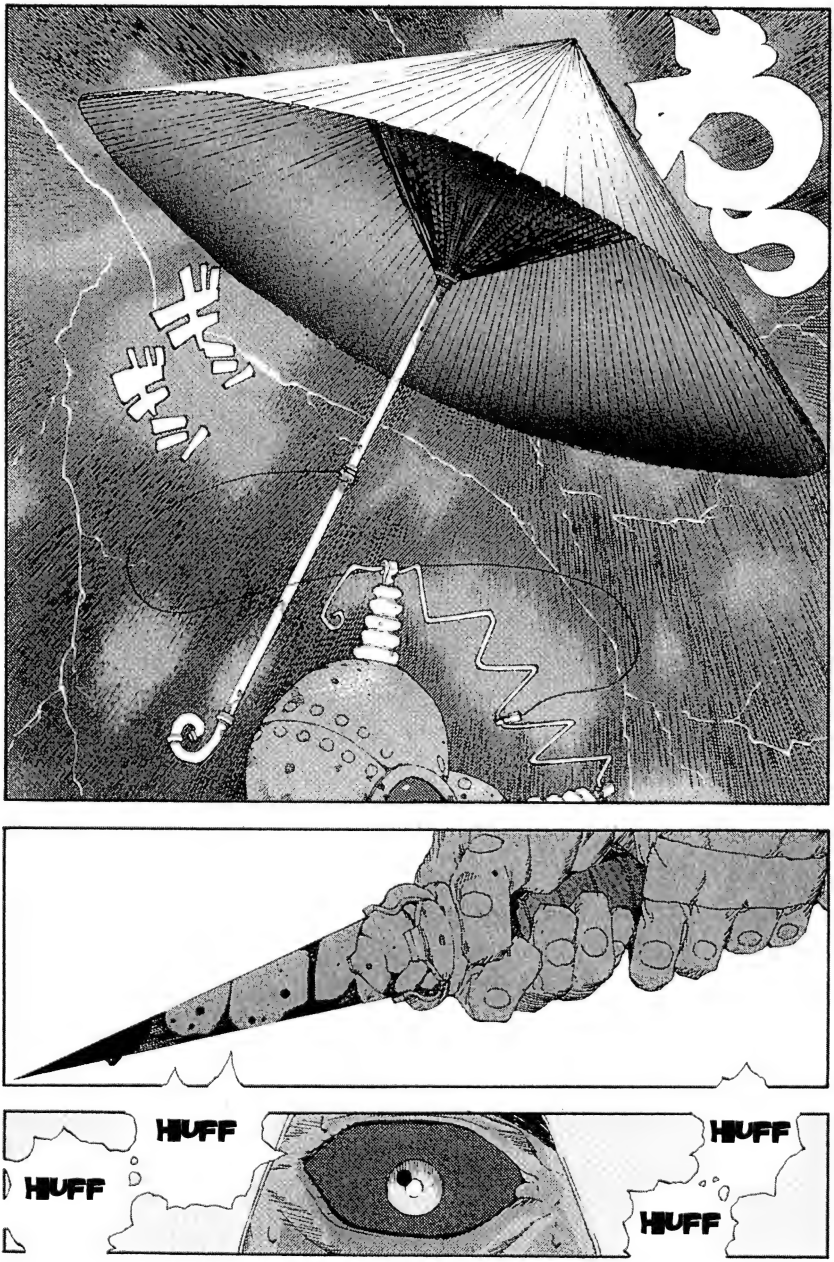


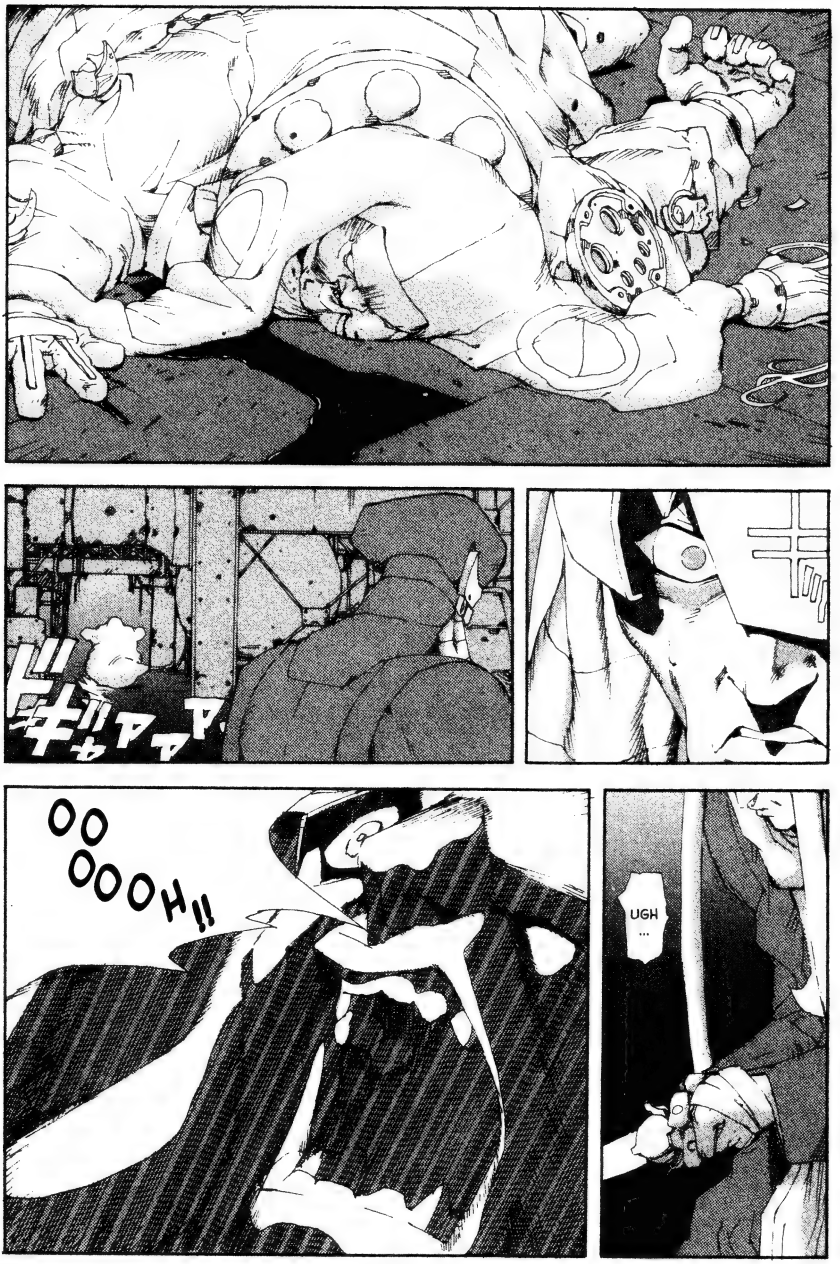
...KIRSCHE...
ELECTRICITY REALLY IS GOING TO KILL THE CAT IF YOU STAY LIKE THIS!!
KIRSCHE!!! WAKE UP!!
C'MON... A SUPER-HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC CURRENT IS SWELLING WITHIN THE CLOUDS EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

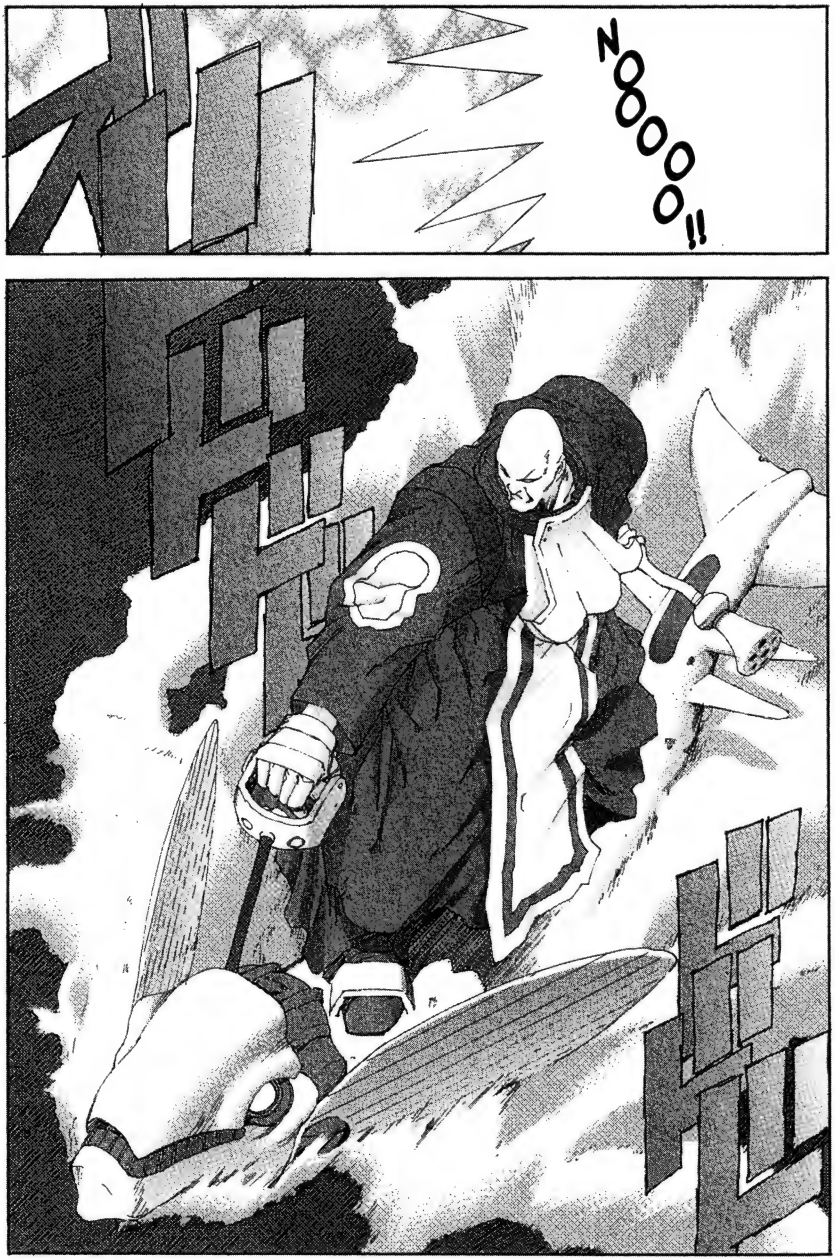
コトリ…
ドサッ
QUICK--COVER YOURSELF WITH THIS INSULATION ROBE!!
!

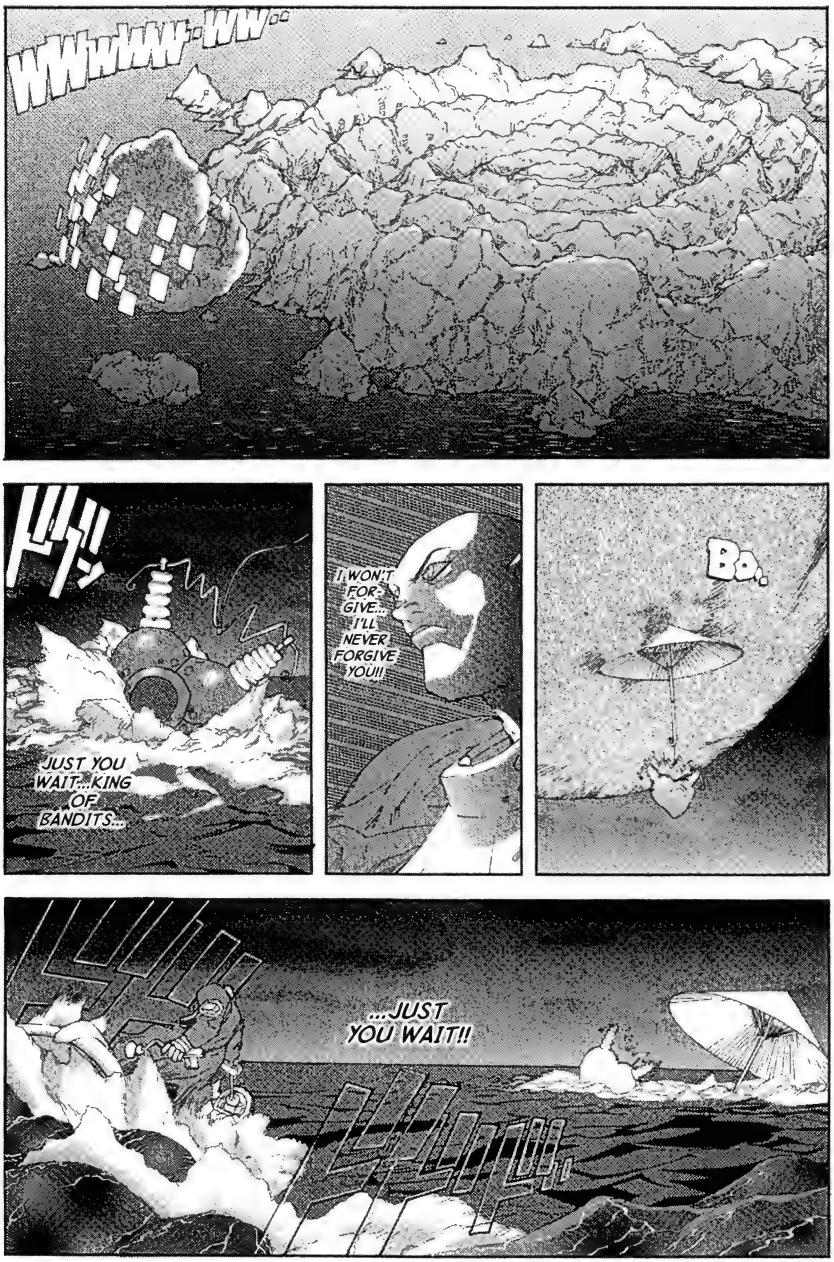

KKK
KKKKKKKK
THUMBS UP!
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
!!


SWISH
PIN!

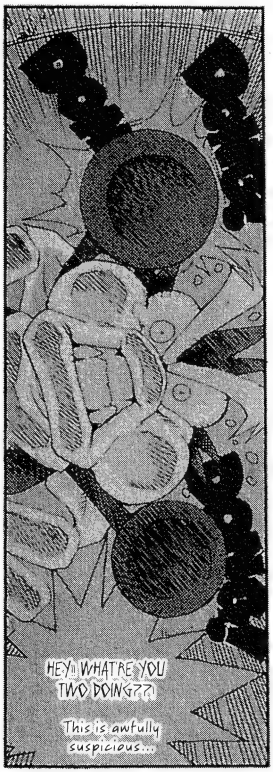

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

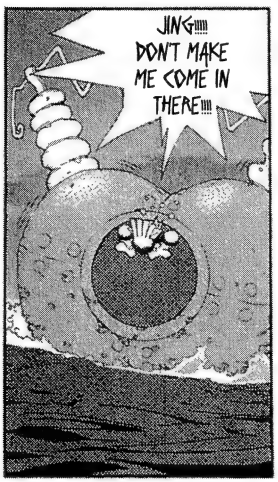

ドキュアアア
OOOOH!!
UGH ...


NOOOO!!

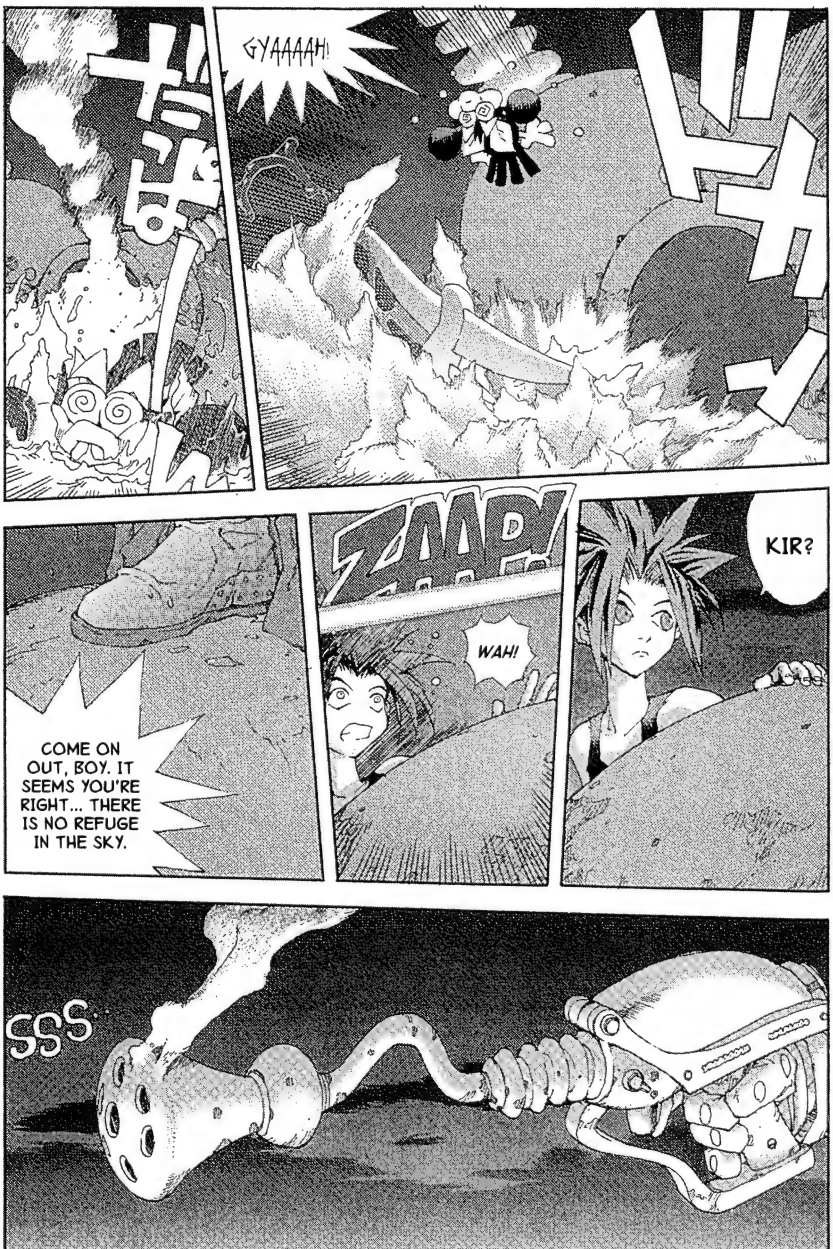

WWWWW-WW
JUST YOU WAIT...KING OF BANDITS...
I WON'T FOR-GIVE... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
Ba..
...JUST YOU WAIT!!

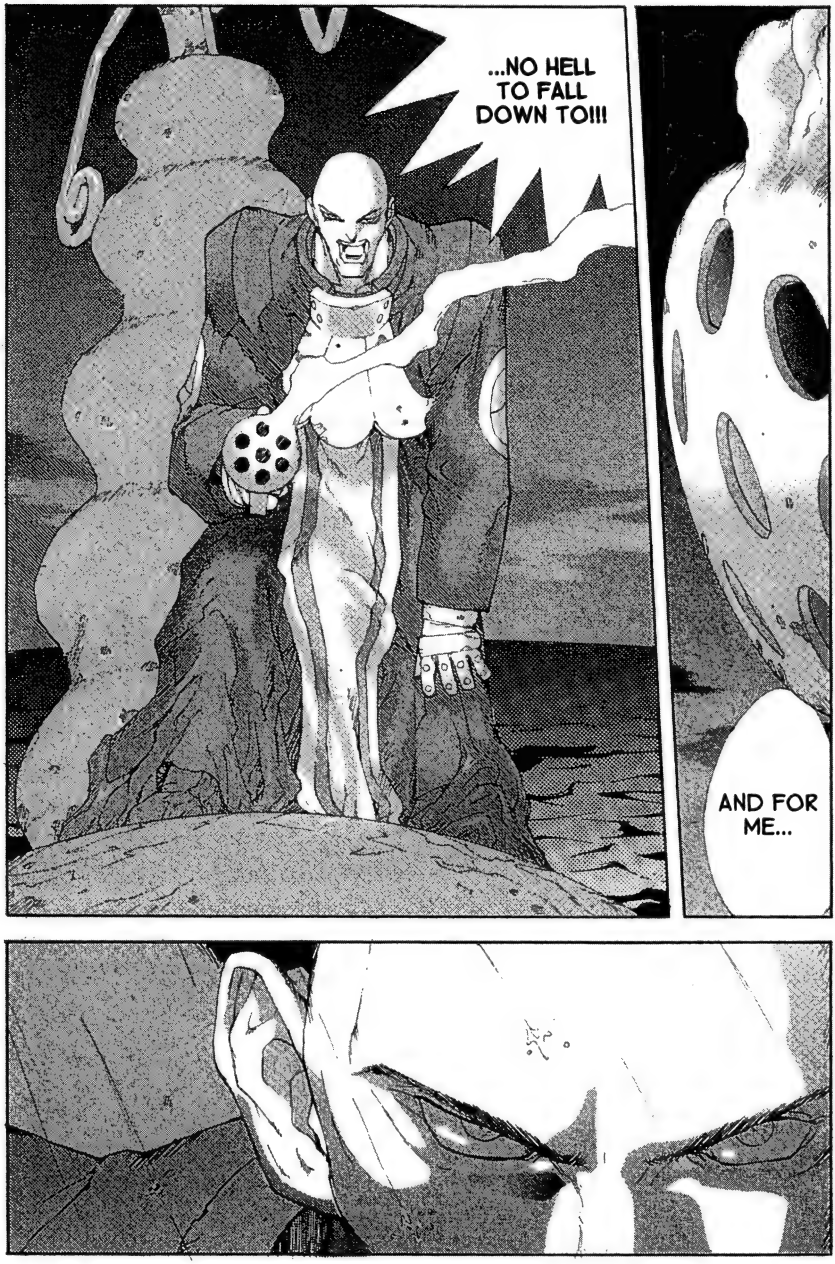
OH...
...NO... IT FEELS LIKE...
UHN?
?
WHAT'S WRONG, KIRSCHE?
WHAT?! WAS THERE A LEAK?! WHERE?!
YOUR LEG?
YOUR ARM?!
...I GOT AN ELECTRIC SHOCK AFTER ALL.
NO...NOTHING LIKE THAT.


HEY!! WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING??!
This is awfully suspicious...


JING!!!!
DON'T MAKE ME COME IN THERE!!!!

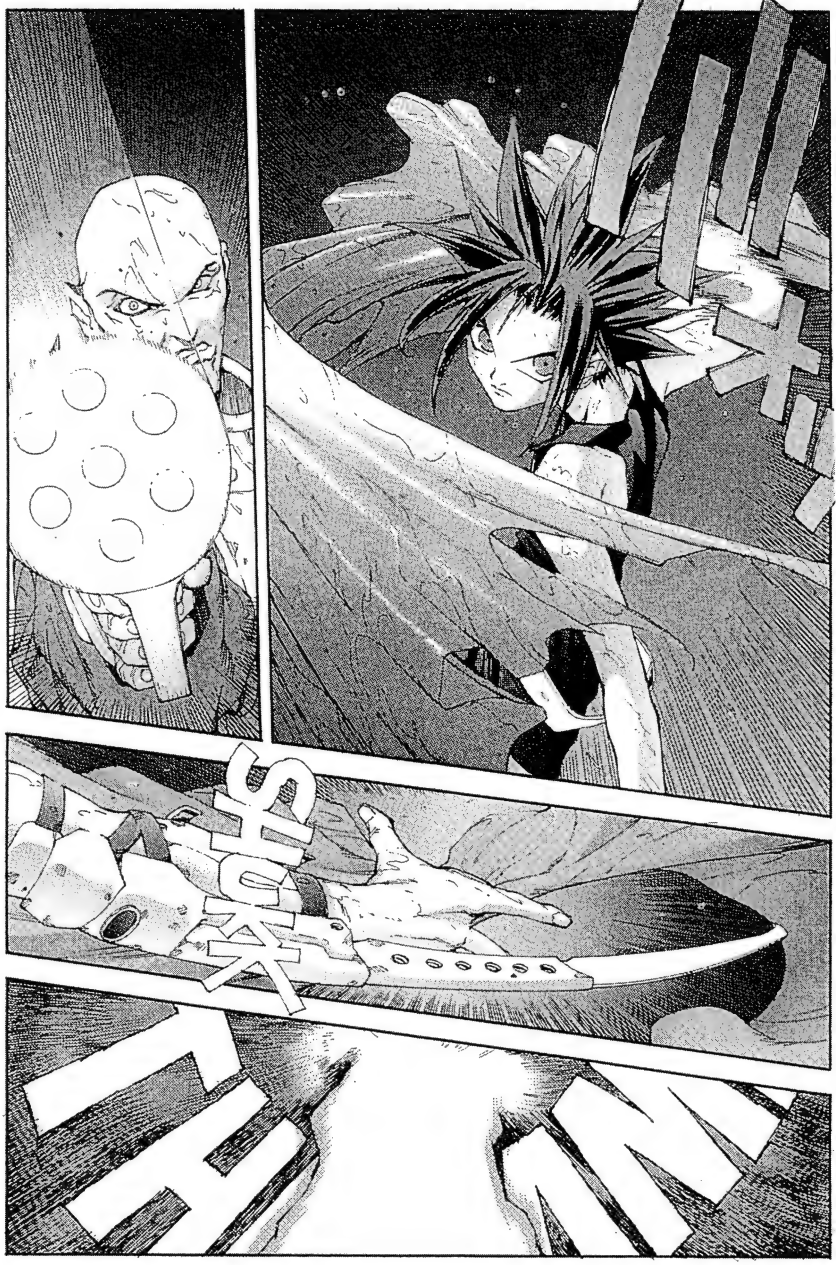
IT'S MORE LIKE... A STRANGE BURNING SENSATION... INSIDE.

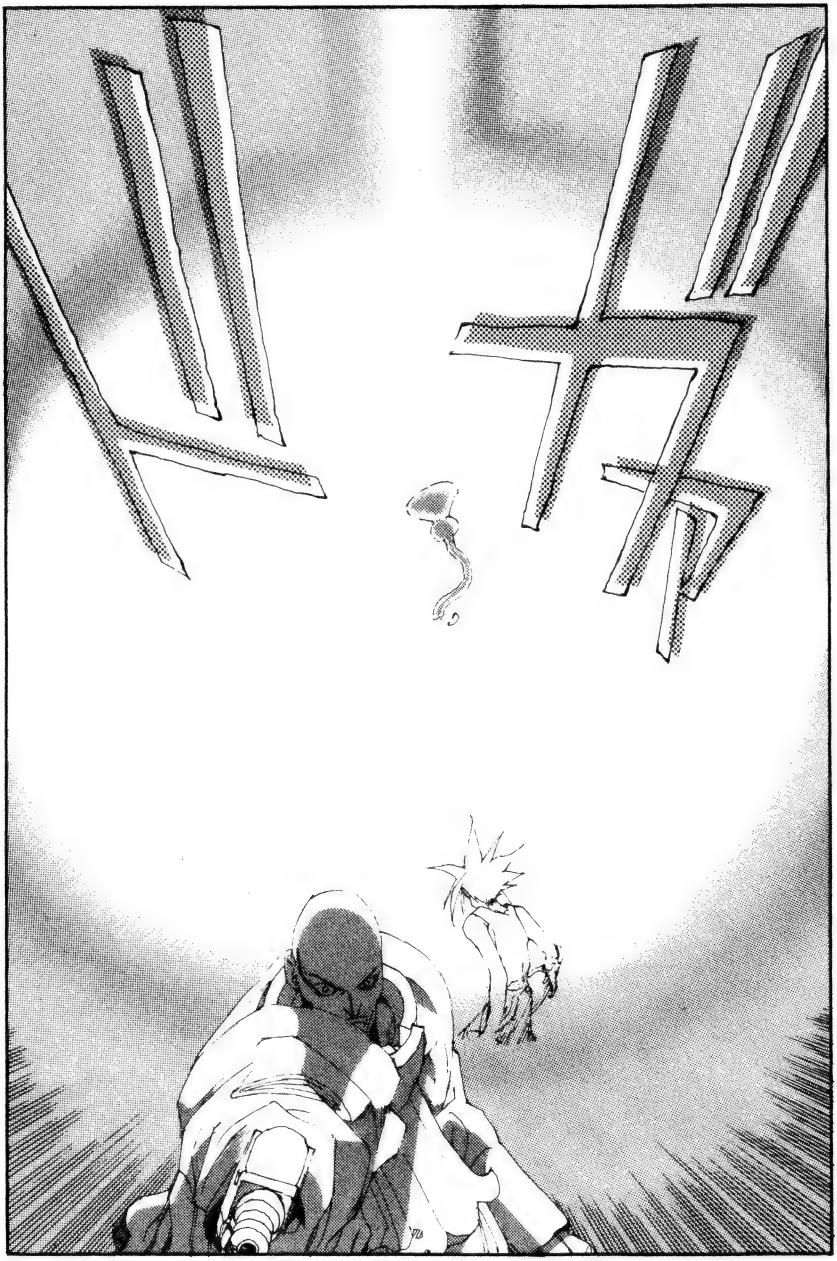

GYAAAAH!
KIR?
WAH!
COME ON OUT, BOY. IT SEEMS YOU'RE RIGHT... THERE IS NO REFUGE IN THE SKY.
SSS


...NO HELL TO FALL DOWN TO!!!
AND FOR ME...

ZIP
ZIP
A HARSH REALITY OF THE EVERYDAY WORLD...EH, KING OF BANDITS?
INDEED...I CONSIDERED YOU MIGHT SWITCH YOUR BULLETPROOF WAISTCOAT FOR AN INSULATION ROBE.

...MY ENTIRE LIFE STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY A MASTER SWINDLER...
IF I, TOO, HAD REMAINED IN THE EVERYDAY WORLD...EVEN IF I HAD STOLEN EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO LIVE...
BUT...AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS SINCE I CAST OFF MY EARTHLY SKIN... THE MAN BEFORE YOU NOW IS FURTHER GONE THAN A CORPSE.
HAHA...YES, CLIMBING UP HERE RELEASED ME FROM MY FEAR OF DEATH.
...A SWINDLER CALLED GOD!!!
TCHIK

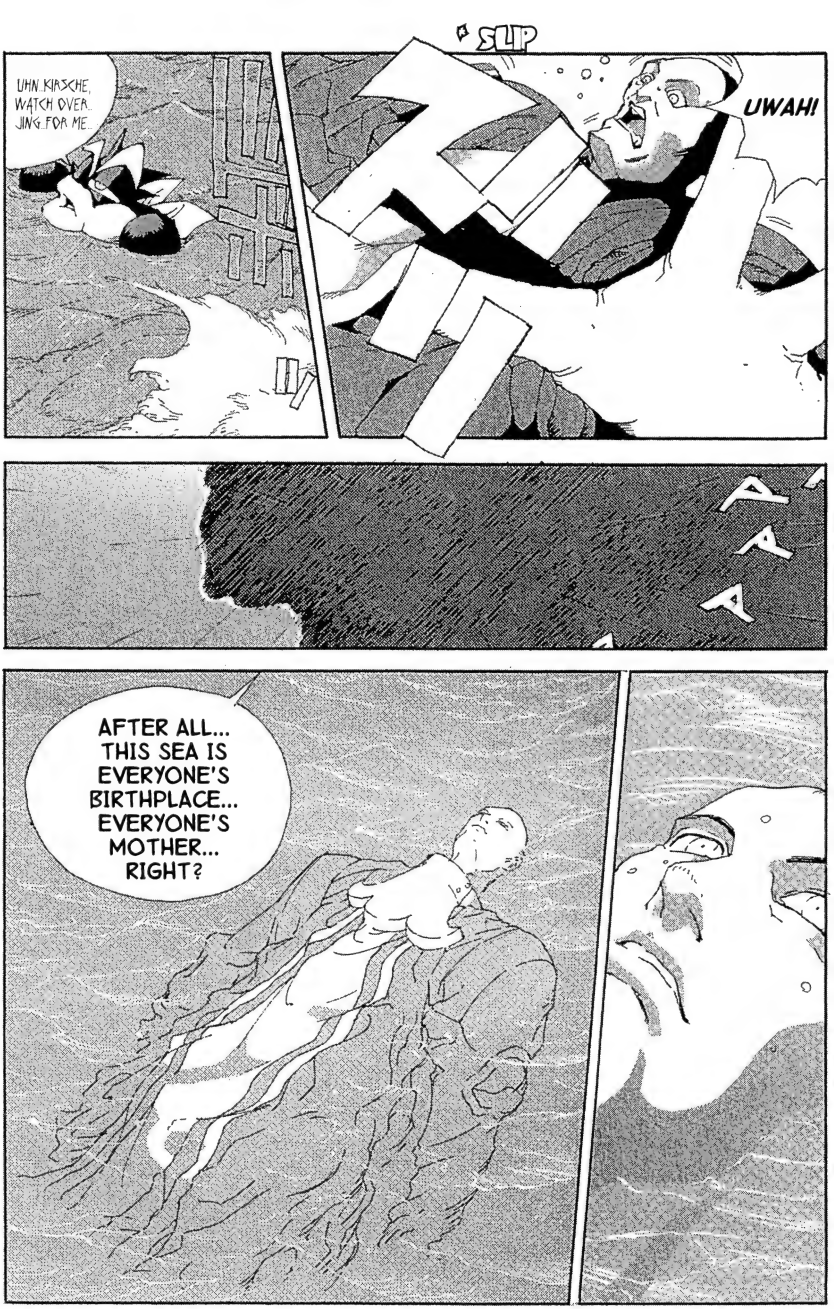

ハッ
SHOKK
END



SEEMS EVEN THE OLD GEEZER ABOVE THE CLOUDS DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF YOUR FAITH...
CAREFUL, FATHER...YOU COULD HAVE CAUGHT YOUR DEATH FROM ELECTRIC SHOCK!!
ガシャ
...I... I...
...I... ALREADY...

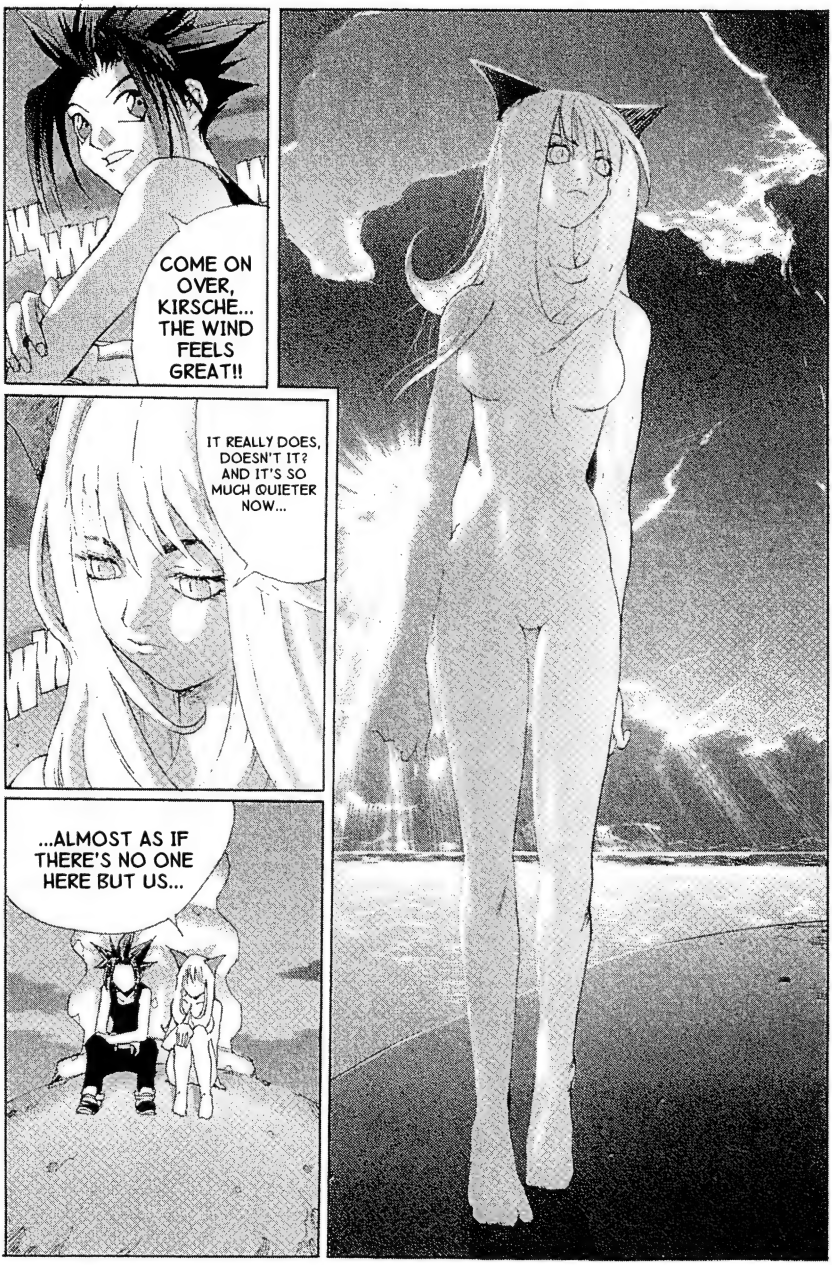
DO YOU EVER WISH YOU COULD BE BORN AGAIN?

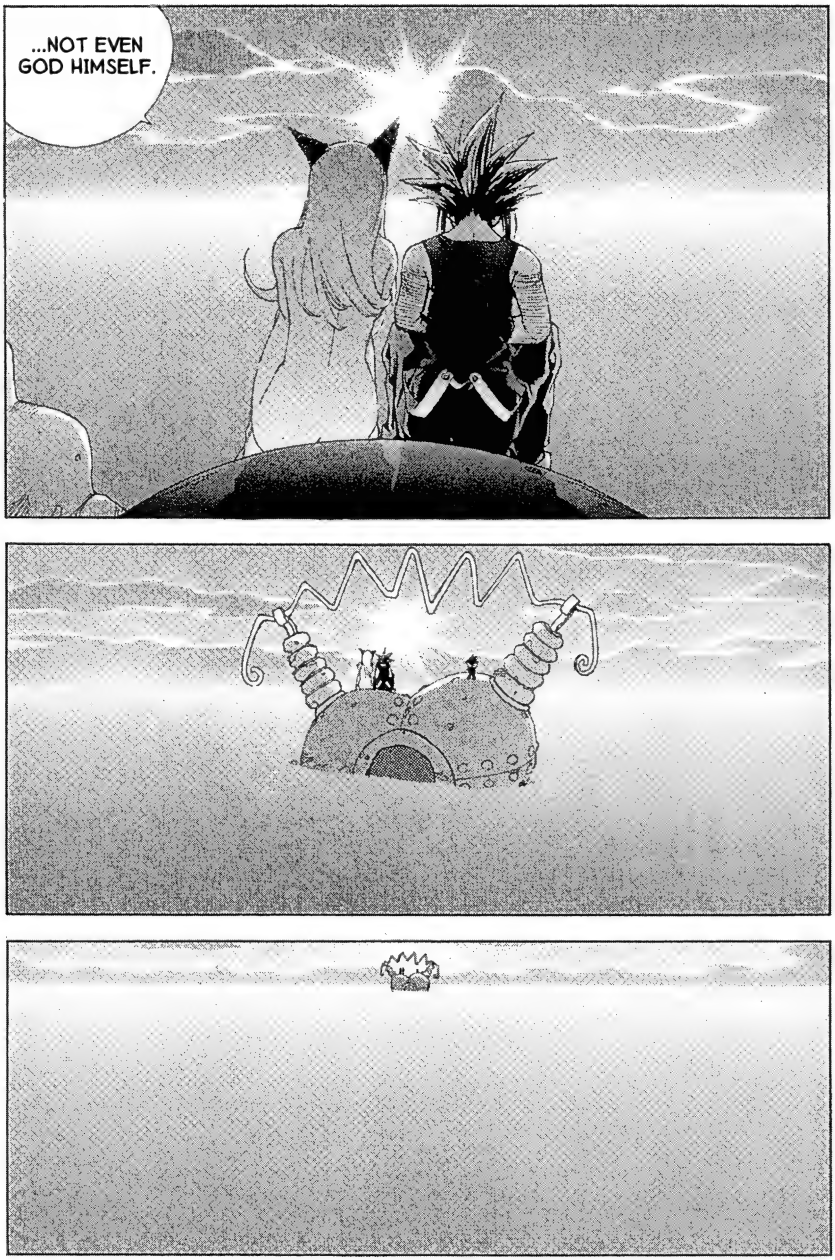
BORN...AGAIN...?

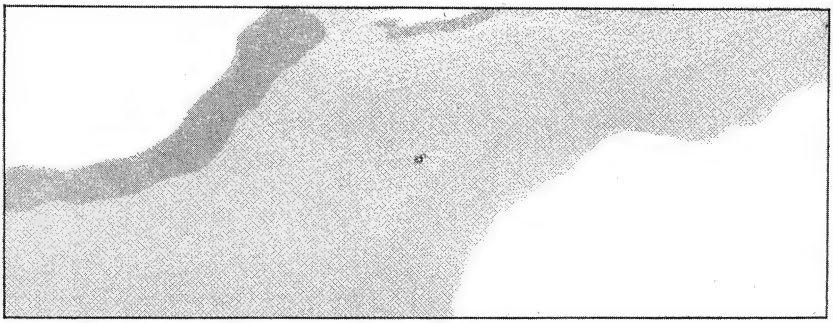

UHN. KIRSCHE, WATCH OVER JING FOR ME.
SLIP
UWAH!
AAA
AFTER ALL... THIS SEA IS EVERYONE'S BIRTHPLACE... EVERYONE'S MOTHER... RIGHT?

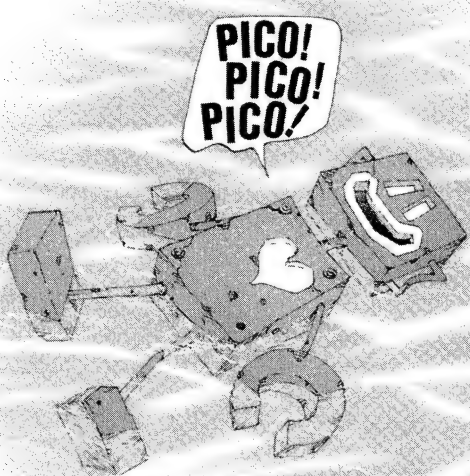
KKKKK..KK..

HA... HAHA... HAHAHAHA...
HAHAAHAHAHHA!!!
HAHAAA! HAHA!!
HERE, KITTY KITTY KITTY..
HEY JING, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING STRANGE TO THAT PRIEST, DID YOU? JING? WHOA!!!


COME ON OVER, KIRSCHE... THE WIND FEELS GREAT!!
IT REALLY DOES, DOESN'T IT? AND IT'S SO MUCH QUIETER NOW...
...ALMOST AS IF THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US...


...NOT EVEN GOD HIMSELF.

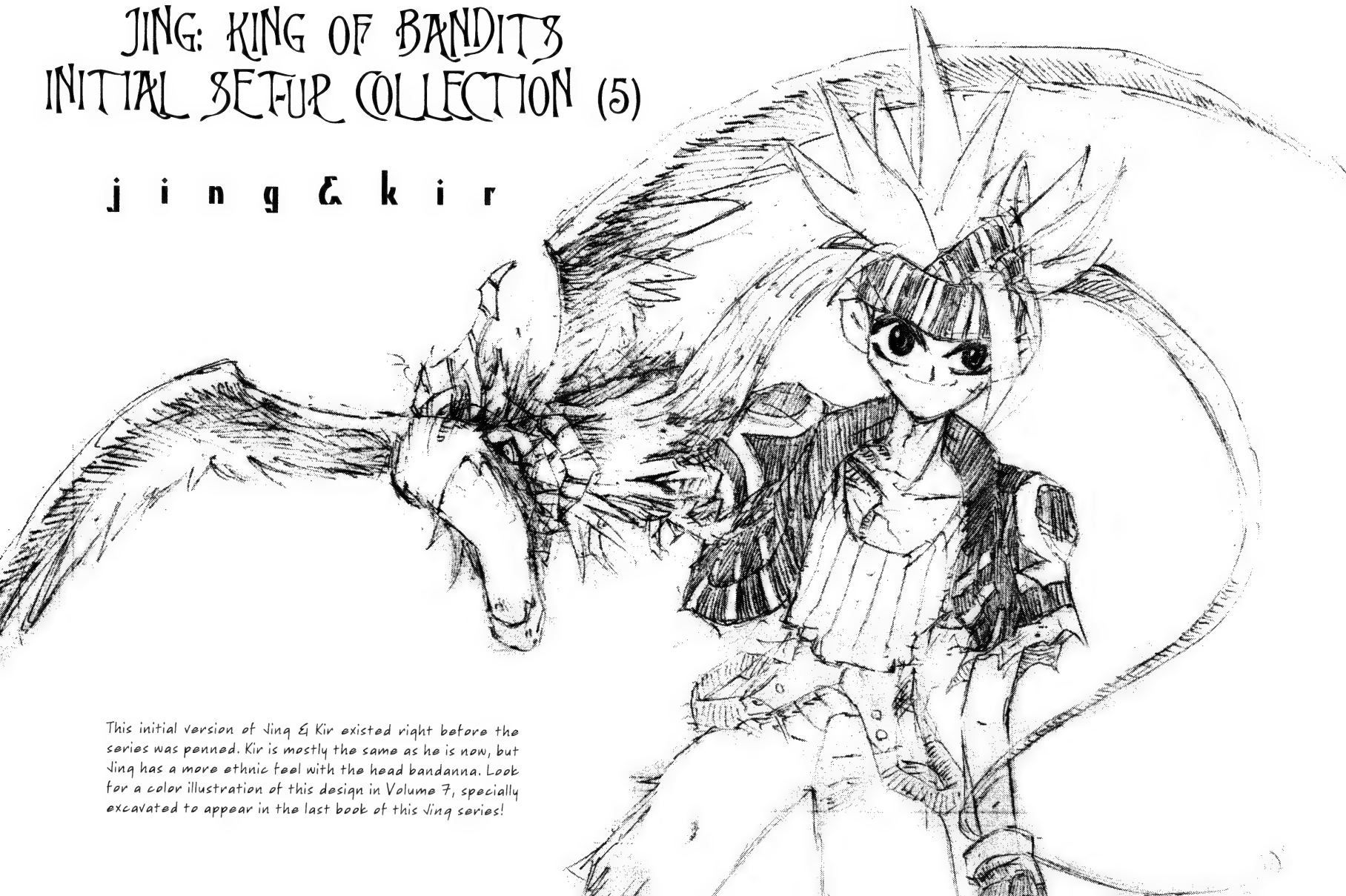




Jing will return in Volume 7

JING: KING OF BANDITS INITIAL SETTING COLLECTION (5)

j i n g & k i r



This initial version of Jing & Kir existed right before the series was penned. Kir is mostly the same as he is now, but Jing has a more ethnic feel with the head bandanna. Look for a color illustration of this design in Volume 7, specially excavated to appear in the last book of this Jing series!

jing a

Another rendering of the previous page's Jing and Kir. Kir playing off the dumb straight man is downright laughable. That extra-large rucksack in Jing's left hand is filled with various stolen goods and treasures, no doubt.

jing b

"A boy thief who equips himself with creature, and weapons..." This was the very first concept for Jing. Drawn with it was a small dog...a charming sidekick with a runny nose.

Meanwhile, here is a bird-type partner. In other words, an incarnation that came close to Kir. By himself, Jing just looks like a treasure hunter...an explorer rather than a thief. Also, his facial expression looks almost gentle when compared with the current version.

j i n g c

jing d

This super-duper partner was quite unexpected!! How short is Jing's hair in this picture?! His clothes also have an impish style to them, with the short pants and rolled-up sleeves. And the ears of Jing's partner--on whom he rides comfortably--are long. Do you think he'd be able to fly by flapping them?

KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING

Enter Pompier, the City of Color! Kir finds his head on the block in the court of the Crimson Company—but he's tickled pink about his perilous predicament in the colorful city. Why? A gorgeous girl of course! Now it's up to Jing to rescue the birds of a feather from being sold on the Black Market! As the last chapter closes on *Jing: King of Bandits*, don't feel blue—Jing and Kir will return in *Jing: King of Bandits—Twilight Tales!*

It's a new series coming soon that is already leaving fans green with envy!
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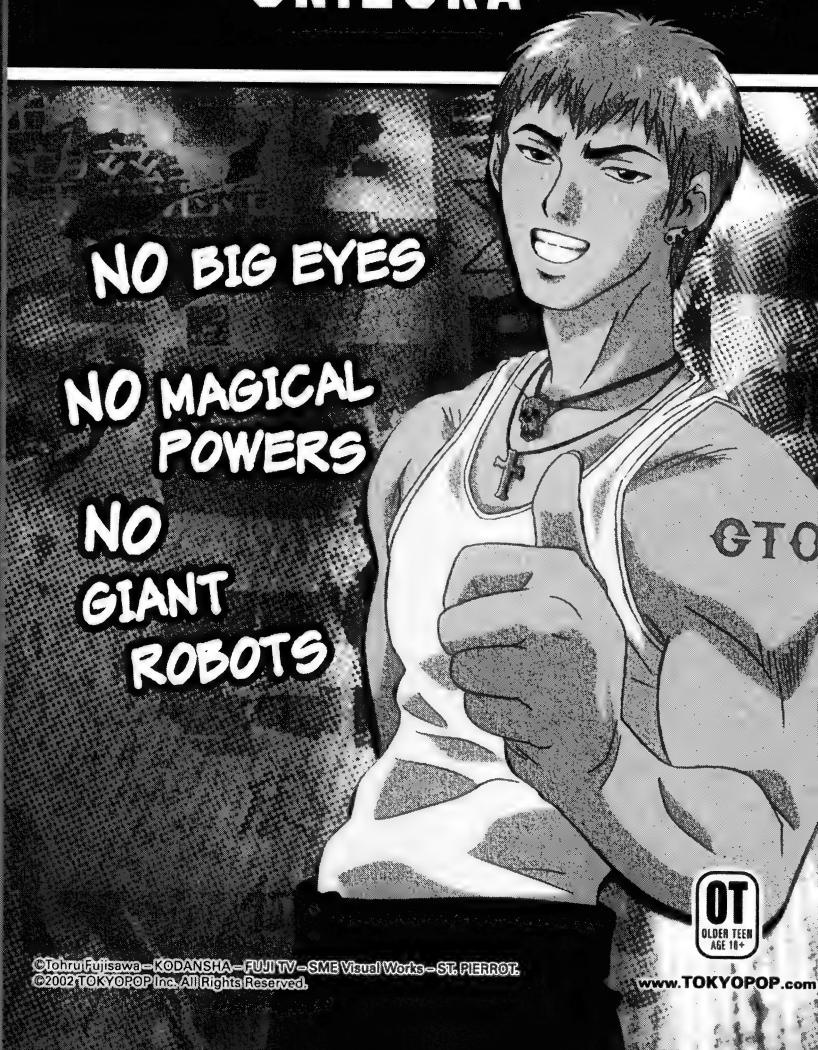

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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LILO & STITCH
LIZZIE MCGUIRE
LIZZIE MCGUIRE MOVIE, THE
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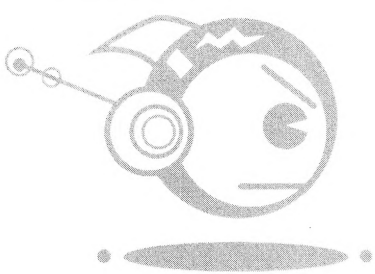

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